

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

• Vol 13 No 514 — TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1992

• REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST — PUBLICATION N° NBQ5726

\$2

WEEKLY

They thought they'd never make it!

I'M OVER THE MOON ...

Says TOM McCULLOCH



"BEING recalled into the Socceroo squad for the three match series against Sweden comes as a surprise — a pleasant one I may add!

"I didn't think I'd make it, and I had a horrendous feeling my representative days were over.

"But now I'm back in the reckoning, I aim to make every post a winning post.

"Ever since I started kicking a ball my ambition has been to play in a World Cup final series for Australia.

"Now, that I've been brought back in from the cold, I intend to give my lot, to help

the Socceroos make the finals in the USA in 1994.

"Although my club, Marconi, is not having the best of seasons, I know within myself I've been playing well.

"I'm extremely thankful, that national team boss Eddie Thomson thinks the same way!

"Believe me, I will not let coach Thomson down in the series against the Swedes.

"I am grateful for the confidence he has shown in me.

"I fully realise it will be hard to break back into the team.

"But my first hurdle has been overcome, by being selected in the squad.

"It certainly is a great feeling to be back."

Coach Thomson said, on announcing his squad, he had no hesitation in selecting Supernac.

"Tom went off the boil for a while, but that is now in the past.

"After watching him in action over the past few weeks, it is obvious all his old drive and enthusiasm has returned.

"And this, plus his skills and vision, make him a very valuable player.

"He has regained his place in the squad through his own determination and effort, and he's to be congratulated on his fight back to the top.

"He's the perfect example for all to follow."

... AND I'M ECSTATIC

Says MARK BOSNICH

"I slept well last night, for the first time in many months, after being told of my retention in the Olympic squad, for the curtain raisers to the Sweden series.

"With all the problems I've been having with Sydney Croatia recently, I didn't think I'd make it!

"Believe me, this is the greatest tonic I've had in months.

"When I received the phone call from coach Thomson, I had tears in my eyes.

"To be perfectly honest, I was beginning to think my career

was in tatters.

"When I was forced to leave Manchester United because of visa problems, it was a terrible blow.

"Especially after the wonderful World Youth Cup series in Portugal, with the Young Socceroos.

"However, I came home determined to make my mark in NSL football.

"But things have gone terribly wrong for me at Sydney Croatia, and I really was down in the dumps.

"I will be eternally grateful to coach Thomson for his confidence in me, and I won't let him down."

Coach Thomson disclosed, that it had never entered his mind to leave Bosnich out of his Olympic squad.

"Manchester United rate Mark as one of the world's finest young goalkeepers and he also gained this standing in Portugal during the World Youth Championships," Thomson said.

"This has been my thinking all along, and nothing that has happened at his club in recent weeks, has changed my line of thought.

"Mark is a youngster of exceptional talent and this talent must be used to Australia's advantage."



What ABSW says . . .

THE biggest test Socceroos will have when they face Sweden in the coming three match international series will be scoring goals!

This is the most difficult aspect of the game, and it's an art that sadly has slumped badly on the NSL scene this season.

And no doubt, this deficiency will have its effect in the ranks of the Socceroos.

There seems little coach Eddie Thomson can do about it, as goal scoring is habit forming, and if our strikers' scoring ratio is not high at club level,

they cannot be expected to increase it in the international arena.

What should have been introduced in the NSL this season is three points for a win and one for a draw.

This points system was introduced in the Canadian pro-league this season, and has resulted in a surge of goals.

In Canada, three or more goals were recorded in 58 percent of the matches.

At the same time as the increase in goals, there was a reduction in the number of draws — particularly in scoreless draws.

The change in the system in Canada

also produced an increase of 10 per cent in crowd figures.

It is also obvious that this season numerous coaches in the NSL have become neurotically preoccupied with not losing.

The result being their players go out onto the field so indoctrinated with defensive theories they are allowed little freedom of expression.

Again, I suppose, it could be argued that you have to have the players with the skill and ability to play positive football!

— THE EDITOR

Socceroos are ready!



Skipper Paul Wade



BY TOM ANDERSON

"I am confident we have the players to achieve the required result in the coming series against Sweden," declared national coach Eddie Thomson when he announced his squad in Sydney yesterday.

"I have selected the form players and it's the best available.

"However, it won't be an easy series for either team.

"For our part, the Swedes are a no-nonsense outfit, who play an English type of game.

"They take the shortest path to goal and they cannot be muscled out of the game.

"I will plan accordingly.

"However, they are coming here from a cold Scandinavian winter and will need time to acclimatise.

"This should be to our advantage."

This will be the first real start on the road to the USA and the 1994 World Cup finals for the Socceroos.

Every player in the squad knows only too well that there is no such thing as a guaranteed squad berth.

Reputations at this stage in the build-up mean nothing.

Because it is a three match series, coach Thomson will call on the majority of the squad in the games in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne.



Coach Eddie Thomson

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCKER

WEEKLY

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* Tel: (02) 660 2033 * FAX: (02) 692 0649

* TELEX: AA22141

Published every Tuesday by Foreign Language

Publications Pty. Ltd.

(A company incorporated in New South Wales)

1-9 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037.

DISTRIBUTION:

NSW/ACT: Foreign Language Publications Pty Ltd, 1/9

Glebe Pt Rd, Glebe, 2137. Tel: (02) 660 2033. VICTORIA:

Foreign Language Publications Pty Ltd, 2nd floor 276

Russell St, Melbourne 3000. Tel: (03) 663 4411

QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspapers, Campbell St,

Bowen Hills 4006. Tel: (07) 252 6011. SOUTH

AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspapers Ltd Waymouth St,

Adelaide 5000 Tel: (08) 218 9329. WESTERN

AUSTRALIA: West Australian Newspapers Ltd, 125 St

George Terrace, Perth 6000. Tel: (09) 321 0161.

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Recommended and maximum price only \$2.00.

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manuscripts, illustrations or photographic material.

—Deadline for contributions, articles

and advertising is Thursday morning

of the WEEK PRIOR to issue date.

SOCCKEROO SQUAD

Zabica, Gray, Tobin, Bernal, Zelic, T.Vidmar, Durakovic, Ivanovic, Tapal, Petersen, Wade (capt), van Blerk, McCulloch, Milosevic, Edwards, Maxwell, Spink, Trimboli.

OLYMPIC SQUAD

Filan, Bosnich, Blagojevic, Mori, Longo, Murphy, Muscat, Souris, Sifkas, Hristodoulou, Refenes, Seal, Hasler, Veart, Dickinson, Gibson, Corica, Bennett.

Tournament dates and venues:

Sydney-Sydney Football Stadium-26 January

Adelaide-Hindmarsh Stadium-29 January

Melbourne-Olympic Park-2 February

Tickets will be available through Ticketek and

Bess outlets.

NSL SCORE BOARD

Results

BRISBANE UTD 1 (C Koch 72) MELB CROATIA 2 (Mori 50, 77) at Perry Park. Crowd: 4,000.
SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Caleta 70) NEWCASTLE BHP 0 at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 2,023.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Ironsides 56) HEIDELBERG UTD 1 (Patalis 11) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 3,897.
PRESTON 1 (Spink 61) APIA LEICHHARDT 2 (Ollershaw 66, Gibson 71) at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 2,000.
WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (Brodnik 67) MARCONI 0 at Brandon Park. Crowd: 4,000.
ADELAIDE CITY 0 WEST ADELAIDE 1 (Agostino 59) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 13,000.
SOUTH MELBOURNE 0 PARRA MELITA 2 (Gomez 47, Callanan 73) at Middle Park. Crowd: 3,900.

TOP GOAL SCORERS

11 Francis Awaritefe (Melb Croatia)
11 Tim Bredbury (Syd Olympic)
10 Kim Taliadoros (Sth Melb)
8 Damien Mori (Melb Croatia)

NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Melb Croatia	11	3	3	32	15	25
Wollongong	8	6	3	18	7	22
Adelaide City	7	8	2	22	12	22
South Melb	9	3	5	34	18	21
Olympic	8	5	4	22	18	21
Brisbane Utd	5	7	5	18	22	17
Leichhardt	5	6	6	16	21	16
Parramatta	3	9	5	13	15	15
West Adelaide	5	5	7	16	24	15
Syd Croatia	4	6	7	15	21	14
Heidelberg	4	5	8	16	24	13
Newcastle	3	7	7	13	22	13
Marconi	4	4	9	19	23	12
Preston	3	6	8	12	24	12

AWARD PROGRESS POINTS

14 Bredbury (SO)
13 M. Runje (BU)
13 Biskovic (MC)
13 Durakovic (SMH)
13 Heddle (N)
12 McCulloch (M)
11 Trimboli (SMH)
11 Horsley (WC)

Eagles fly high!



Melita scorer Gerry Gomez



Melita Eagles Soccer Club

MELITA EAGLES 2
STH MELBOURNE 0

BY GREG BLAKE

MELITA Eagles went back to the future to pull off the stunner of the season, a shock 2-0 win over reigning champions South Melbourne Hellas at Middle Park on Sunday.

It was a day that the Eagles' veterans flew high, with 31-year-old Gerry Gomez leading the charge with a superlative performance from midfield.

Robbie Wheatley (29), Jarek Nowicki (29), Osvaldo El Ali (28), Alfredo Barrios (32) and Hugo Gimenez (26) made up the battery of pensioners who met South Melbourne head on and played them off the park.

Two second half goals, from man-of-the-match Gomez and underrated defender Andrew Callanan, gave Melita its first away victory of the season in style.

In contrast South Melbourne's first home defeat of the campaign signalled cle-

arly that the club's slump is quickly turning into a crisis for the Blues.

The defeat means South Melbourne has taken a meagre four points from its last six games, the worst run by a South Melbourne team in four seasons.

And the sinking ship lurched into further troubled waters on Sunday as two more key players ended the match off the ground and injured and a third Mehmet Durakovic, was booked and is now suspended for the next two games at West Adelaide next weekend and at home against Marconi in round 19.

South's makeshift team — already without Steve Blair, David Healy and Angie Postecoglou — lost Danny Wright after just 13 minutes with a calf injury and Paul Trimboli limped off late in the game after aggravating a hamstring complaint, meaning South Melbourne may be without up to six first team regulars for the danger team at Hindmarsh Stadium next weekend.

But to concentrate too much on the woes of the Blues would be

doing an injustice to a Melita Eagles side which had the audacity to take on South Melbourne on its own skillful game for the full 90 minutes.

The Eagles, with wide men El Ali and Nowicki running rampant at South's makeshift backline and Gomez steamrolling up the middle didn't allow the homies a moment's peace.

The tremendous end-to-end action continued unabated for 90 minutes but when it counted South Melbourne went missing and it came as no surprise to see the visitors go a goal ahead two minutes after halftime.

Young defender Peter Tzamouranis was left stranded as last man against a looping high ball to the edge of the box and Gomez, seizing the moment barged his way past the youngster and angled his lob over goalkeeper Bruce Maclaren as he came out to challenge.

Peter Tzolakis gave South Melbourne some hope as he struck a purple patch for a ten minute period but South's flagging hopes were snuffed out as Melita struck again in the 73rd minute.

The brilliant Nowicki was the creator again as his cross found Greg Brown and Brown's cheeky flick-on setup Callanan to

make it 2-0 on the far post.

The South Melbourne camp was understandably distraught at the loss but soccer skipper Paul Wade conceded that his side was clearly outplayed on the day.

"We knew that they could play and they showed us that today," said Wade.

"But we let ourselves down and we've got to pull our fingers out and start working hard again."

Melita coach Raul Blanco jubilantly called the victory his side's best performance of the season.

"In the past we've played well but have had nothing to show for it," Blanco explained.

"But today we were very composed against good opponents."

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Maclaren, Wright (Tzamouranis 13m), Hasler, Durakovic, Fernandes, Wade, Talladros, Petersen, Trimboli (Michalakopoulos 77), Boutsianis, Tzolakis.

MELITA EAGLES: McPherson, Dickinson, Callanan, Barrios, Wheatley, Gomez (Falzon 88m), Nowicki, Gimenez, El Ali, Genc (O'Donnell 50m), Brown.

SCORERS: Gomez 47m, Callanan 73m for Melita.

YELLOW CARDS: Durakovic 21m for South Melbourne. El Ali 63m for Melita.

REFEREE: T McRoe.
CROWD: 3,900.
POINTS: Gomez 3, Nowicki 2, Callanan 1.

APIA is alive

APIA 2
PRESTON 1

BY CON STAVROS

APIA Leichhardt clung to its slim hopes for a place in the top five with a hard fought 2-1 away victory at Preston on Sunday.

The Bulls sparked to life to score twice in five minutes to answer controversy-laden goal that had put Preston in front in the 63rd minute.

Warren Spink turned in the opening goal in a lively second half after a goal first period had failed to expire the local faithful.

Referee Dennis Voutsinas made himself the centre of attention with the visitors after giving Preston a doubtful corner that led to Spink's goal.

Steve Jackson's header appeared to fall against the crossbar and away for a goal-kick, but was given a corner by Voutsinas much to the chagrin of the Apia defenders.

Their frustration was magnified into legitimate complaints just seconds later when Robert Momirovski's corner found the head

of John Waddell who fought goalkeeper Tony Franken into a magnificent save.

The ever alert Spink pounced onto the loose ball to put the locals into the lead.

It took just five minutes for the Bulls to answer with a goal from substitute Scott Ollerenshaw.

Ollerenshaw, the victim of a dry spell early in the season, scored for the second consecutive week after turning on the edge of the box and sending a low shot into the far corner.

Dominating the midfield with John Gibson and John McQuarrie, the visitors took just another five minutes to grab the winner with a move that left the Preston defence looking bewildered.

Coach Manfred Schaeffer had been looking to stretch the Preston defence wide all evening and his plans paid dividends in the 71st minute when Derek Poimer's bullet-like cross from wide on the right found the head of a diving John Gibson.

Apia could have made it three just minutes from the end when Jason Van Blerk's fine run and

powerful shot looked goalbound but for the timely acrobatics of goalkeeper Phil Traianedes.

Preston coach Ian Dobson conceded after the match that the better team had won on the day, before locking his players away for 20 minutes in a soul searching post mortem.

Manfred Schaeffer, relieved that the controversial corner had not robbed his side of any points, praised his young outfit for their commitment and courage in securing for his team what was in the end a comfortable and deserved victory.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianedes, Spasevski, Stolevski, Jackson, Parton, Roodhouse (Momirovski 47), Petrov, McAleer, Spink, Waddell (Emovski 76m), Zinni.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Franken, Dihn, Jennings, Stewart, Bennett, McQuarrie, Gibson, Souris (Ollerenshaw 58m), Poimer, McFadden, Van Blerk.

SCORERS: Spink 61m for Preston. Ollerenshaw 58m, Gibson 71m for Apia.

YELLOW CARDS: Zinni 39m, Momirovski 48m, Emovski 84m, Jackson 90m for Preston. Van Blerk 11m for Apia.

REFEREE: D Voutsinas.

CROWD: approx 2,000.
POINTS: Gibson 3, Poimer 2, Van Blerk 1.

MARCONI vs ADELAIDE CITY



**SATURDAY
NIGHT**

7PM

**YOUTH
LEAGUE
5PM**

**Top Action
in the
NSL**



TOM McCULLOCH



BERTI MARIANI



STEVE MAXWELL



ZORAN MATIC

**Bring the
whole
family**

**Wonderful
facilities**

BRESCIA

FURNITURE

Super sub Joe does the business



SYDNEY CROATIA 1
NEWCASTLE 0

BY LACHLAN
BARKER

SYDNEY Croatia continued their steady progress up the table with a 1-0 victory over Newcastle on Sunday evening.

Substitute Joe Caleta scored the only goal of the match with a powerful header in the 71st minute.

The game was a slow started affair with the first incident occurring in the 30th minute.

Flanker Jose Iriarte provided an accurate through ball for opposite wingman Manis Lamond.

Iriarte's ball, gave Lamond a clear chance with only the keeper to beat but he blasted his shot well over the bar.

This shot acted as a signal for the action to begin and some good soccer was played for the remainder of the game.

Croatia's best chance of the half came just five minutes later when a set move involving Lamond set up a chance for striker Fa-



dilo Muriqi but his powerful drive struck a Newcastle boot and ballooned over the bar.

For the Breakers two excellent chances came late in the half to midfielder Ian Heddle. In both cases Heddle had only the keeper to beat but missed both chances with weak and indecisive finishing.

Thus, the teams went to the break locked at 0-0 and neither team looking dominant.

The second half saw an increase in the pace of the match with Croatia particularly coming forward in search of that elusive goal.

It came in the 71st minute fittingly set up by Croatia's best attacker Lamond.

Lamond dragged himself free of the defence on the right flank pulled the ball back onto his favourite left foot and floated an inviting cross over the Newcastle penalty area.

Powerful substitute Joe Caleta sprinted 10 metres climbed into the sky and slammed his header past the de-

spairing Gibson.

This goal galvanised the Newcastle side and they almost drew level in the remaining minutes with the best opportunity arriving on the stroke of fulltime.

Young soccerroo Brad Maloney found himself free in the Newcastle penalty area and slammed a goal-bound drive at the corner of the net.

Maloney was denied by Zelco "spider-man" Kalac who flung out a gigantic arm and snagged the ball just before it entered the net.

This save highlighted an excellent performance from Kalac who did as much as any to ensure Croatia's victory.

This win for the Sydney team continued their steady progress up the table, since the appointment of new coach Ivan Raznejevic they have lost only one match out of six.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Kalac, Runje, Grbovski, Popovic, Babic, Stipic, Iriarte (Caleta 47m), Ri-coy, Kralovic, Muriqi, Lamond (Stanton 85m).

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS: Gibson, Northam, Heddle, Roberts, Kozicka, Moffitt, Longo, Hillier (Maler 62m), Koch (Meredith 69m), Maloney, Neumev.

SCORERS: Caleta 71m for Sydney Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Moffitt 35m for Newcastle.

REFEREE: G Power.

CROWD: 2,823.

POINTS: Kalac 3, Lamond 2, Kozicka 1.



In fine form: Manis Lamond

PLAYERS WANTED

ST GEORGE BSC

St George BSC will conduct trials for quality players interested to play in the NSW Soccer Federation's Super League.

Trials start tomorrow
(Wednesday January 15)
and each

Wednesday thereafter for the
next four weeks.

TIME... 6pm Sharp

VENUE

St George
Stadium
Bestie Street,
ROCKDALE



For further information, please
contact the St George Club on

(02) 579 6977

Olyroo Mori is a winner



BRISBANE 1
MEL CROATIA 2

BY GUY HAND

MERCURIAL Melbourne Croatia frontman Damian Mori sank the boot into Brisbane United's final five chances with both goals in his side's 2-1 NSL win in Brisbane on Saturday night.

In a fiery match, Mori struck twice in the second half to end United's unbeaten home record and keep the Melbourne side at the top of the table.

To add insult to injury, United captain

Alan Hunter, who had suffered tonsillitis during the week, received his marching orders in the 61st minute after tangling with Croatia striker Francis Awaritefe off the ball.

He was not the only player to incur the wrath of referee Peter Hulme, who booked six others.

United had their chances to take the lead in the first half, with striker John Brown and midfielder Frank Pimblett coming closest.

Brown swooped on a poor backpass in the 24th minute but hit the ball wide of goal, while Pimblett's close-range 38th minute effort went across the face of goal with keeper

David Miller stranded.

United showed their flair in the first half, with Croatia's dangerous forwards Awaritefe and Josip Biskic kept in check by Hunter and Chris Slater respectively.

But Awaritefe and Mori came alive in the second half, with Awaritefe's skills a highlight of the second half.

Croatia showed the home side how to finish chances in the 50th minute with Mori's opportunist goal.

United 'keeper Mirko Runje parried a scorching shot from Mark Silic into Mori's path, with the livewire striker making no mistake.

Hunter's send-off looked to render United's chances of fighting back useless, but substitute Clayton Koch pulled Brisbane back from the brink in the 72nd minute.

Croatia's Vlado Vanis brought Koch down inside the box and with regular penalty-taker Hunter off the field, the underrated Brisbane striker coolly slotted in the ensuing penalty to equalise.

Mori put the issue beyond doubt five minutes later with his second goal — a shot from the edge of the box which curved into the right hand corner.

Melbourne Croatia coach Ken Murphy said he thought United were playing for a draw.

"I thought by the way they were playing that their intention was to go for a draw and that proved their undoing in the second half," Murphy said.

Murphy also paid tribute to Mori and Awaritefe's efforts.

"We had Damian in behind the two strikers and he took his two shots well," Murphy said.

"Francis always looks dangerous. He worries defenders and I don't know where we'd be without him."

Brisbane United coach Miron Bleiberg all but abandoned his side's final five chances after the loss.

"Personally I think we can stop talking about the final five now and take one game at a time," Bleiberg said.

BRISBANE UNITED: Runje, Williams, Cahut, A Hunter, Gwynne, Bullock, Brown, Halligan, Pimblett, Markovac, Slater. Res: Koch, D. Hunter.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller, Donnelly, Tadjic, Stefanidis, Hannan, Baskic, Mori, Biskic, Silic, Dondeljak, Awaritefe. Res: Vario, Sack.

REFEREE: Peter Hulme.

CAUTIONS: Brisbane: A. Hunter, Halligan.

MEL CROATIA: Dondeljak, Mori, Silic, Biskic, Donnelly.

SEND-OFFS: A. Hunter (Bris Utd).

MAN OF MATCH POINTS: Mori 3, Awaritefe 2, Slater 1.

The biggest and the best in ABSW during the NSL season

Wollongong the brave

A big bore!



WOLLONGONG CITY 1
MARCONI 0

BY ALBERT
MATINEZ

A Wollongong City team depleted by suspensions and injuries drew on all its resources of strength and character to defeat a star-studded Marconi outfit 1-0 at Brandon Park on Sunday.

The win keeps Wollongong firmly entrenched in the top five and at the same time virtually signals the death of Marconi's semi-final aspirations.

Wollongong went into the game without defenders Charlie Yankos and Mike Smith (suspended) and fullback Mike Hollifield and midfielder Alex Bundalo who were both missing through injury.

The Wolves' stocks were so low coach David Ratcliffe was forced to risk Jock Morlando who was carrying a hamstring strain and Claude Cellini who was suffering from tonsillitis and conjunctivitis.

Defeat could spell end of Marconi's top five hopes



Socceroo Tom McCulloch in action

Cellini had to be replaced at halftime

when he began to cough up blood.

The match was an absorbing affair pitting the industrious creativity of Wollongong against the natural flair of a Marconi outfit over-endowed with international players.

The first half was characterised by shifts in territorial advantage.

After creating a couple of good scoring opportunities in the first five minutes of the match, Wollongong found themselves under concerted pressure for the next 20 minutes.

Marconi were unlucky not to score in the 17th minute when David Seal had a shot cleared off the line by a Wolves' defender Jock Morlando.

The chance came after Wollongong Olympic goalkeeper John Filan failed to punch clear a cross from the left and the ball fell to

Seal whose hurried shot was goalbound before Morlando intervened.

In the 21st minute Wollongong striker Grant Bard found himself in possession of a stray pass inside the Marconi box.

Bard's low shot on the turn was brilliantly saved by Marconi goalkeeper Bob Catlin who dived to his left to grab the ball.

At this stage of the match Wollongong began to enjoy more possession and brought themselves back into the contest with some good flurries on the Marconi goal.

In the 37th minute a low cross from Bard found NSL debutante Shane Williams unmarked in front of goal, but the former Dapto junior put his shot wide of Catlin's goal.

In the second half Wollongong continued

their fast pressing game with midfielders Matt Horsley and David Skeen not allowing Tom McCulloch and Milan Blagojevic any time to work out the correct combination to unlock the Wolves' defence.

Marconi almost opened the scoring in the 59th minute when striker David Seal met a cross from Gary Van Egmond with a header which thudded into the upright and fell into the arms of Filan as he lay on the ground.

Wollongong's winning goal came eight minutes later when replacement midfielder Pat Brodnik scored with a spectacular diving header.

The Marconi defence was guilty of ball watching as an unmarked Brodnik cruised through a crowded penalty area to meet a long range free kick floated into the penalty box by Richard Lloyd.

Perhaps Wolves officials sensed it would be Brodnik's day because they featured his player profile in the club's match program.

With three minutes to go the Wolves had Marconi rattled as a brilliant run by Horsley down the right side set up a frantic penalty box scramble.

Marconi defenders seemed unable to clear the ball as it ricocheted around in front of goal and somehow managed to miss the target.

It was a stirring finish by the hometown and when referee Richard Lorenc blew full-time it brought a standing ovation from the Wolves' supporters who chanted "Wollongong, Wollongong" as their team walked from the field.

Marconi coach Bertie Mariani said after the game he thought his team deserved a point from what he described as a scrappy game.

"It is very difficult for us to contemplate a top five place now," Mariani said.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Filan, Green, Morlando, Lloyd, O'Shea, Skeen, Horsley, Williams (Bate ht), Cellini (Brodnik ht), Dimoski, Bard.

MARCONI FAIRFIELD: Catlin, Van Egmond, De Marigny (Georgakis 68m), Jones (Cerro 83m), Calderon, Gray, McCulloch, Blagojevic, Seal, Harper, Corica.

SCORERS: Brodnik 67m for Wollongong.
YELLOW CARDS: O'Shea 30m, Green 63m for Wollongong. Blagojevic 69m, Georgakis 73m for Marconi.

REFEREE: R Lorenc.
CROWD: approx 4,000.
POINTS: Horsley 3, O'Shea 2, Van Egmond 1.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1
HEIDELBERG UTD 1

BY JOHN
ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC and Heidelberg United, struggled to a 1-1 draw after playing through 90 minutes of uninspiring football that had the crowd at the St George Stadium booing both sides as they came off at half and fulltime last Sunday night.

The crowd could not be blamed as they felt cheated by the Soccer that was served up to them. The onus was on the home side to provide the fireworks as Heidelberg played with ace-midfielder, Phil Stubbins and reliable defender Alan Scott, who were obviously not fully fit.

Stubbins, normally a driving force in the centre-line, was pushed up front to partner striker, Derek Hunter, and Scott who has missed the last two games through injury, looked short of a gallop.

Stubbins however could have been a hero as in the dying minutes of the match when he scraped Olympic's cross-bar with a snap shot.

Gary Cole, Heidelberg's astute coach, stated after the match: "Until we conceded that soft goal from their free-kick, I felt Olympic didn't really worry us. Having said that, an away League point is good but I would have been obviously happier with both points."

Trailing by a goal at halftime, Olympic's midfield seemed disjointed and once again a steady stream of quality ball-service

to strikers, Bredbury and Edwards, was never forthcoming.

Only Olympic's skipper Robbie Ironside, showed any degree of competitiveness as he hurled himself forward into enemy lines whilst the relatively new defender, Elias Augerinos once again displayed solidarity and simplicity as a left marker.

Ironside was rewarded in the 56th minute when a delicate free-kick by Edwards floated into the six yard box for him to head into the net for his fourth NSL goal and balance the scoreboard.

Heidelberg opened the score in the 11th minute when a cross by defender Kevin Muscat was laid back by striker Derek Hunter for former Sydney Olympic player, Perry Patalis to smash a left-footed drive into the bottom left corner of the target from 12 metres out.

The first session was played at a lethargic pace as both sides showed little enterprise or fluency when coming forward, despite Heidelberg's front runner Derek Hunter doing heaps of intelligent off-the-ball running.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Melior: Bernal, Augerinos, Zelle: Sand, Barrett, Hristodoulou, Ironside, Refenes (Katholos 84m): Bredbury, Edwards (Lee 77).

HEIDELBERG UTD: Oliver: Muscat, Hodgson, Murphy, Scott: Patalis (Bordignon 72m), Bratten, Sifkas, Cranney: Hunter, Stubbins.

SCORERS: Ironside 56m for Sydney Olympic and Patalis 11m for Heidelberg.

YELLOW CARDS: Hristodoulou 64th for Sydney Olympic and Muscat 67m and Sifkas 85m for Heidelberg.

REFEREE: G Dunster.
CROWD: 3,897.
POINTS: 3- HUNTER, 2- HODGSON, 1- AUGERINOS.

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If it's NSL action you want read it in ABSW

The Sharks now kings of Adelaide



ADELAIDE CITY 0
WEST ADELAIDE 1

BY ALAN CLARK

WEST Adelaide fans produced a banner that read — Adelaide City: Welcome to your nightmare — before Sunday's Coca Cola Soccer League derby showdown at Hindmarsh Stadium.

It depicted a giant shark ready to devour a fleeing zebra.

And, true to the sentiments, West Adelaide produced a giant-killing performance for a deserved 1-0 win against its oldest rival.



Paul Agostino, a young man with a Midas goal-scoring touch produced the moment of magic to split the sides in a tough, aggressive, uncompromising derby.

Agostino, the youngest Shark and Raymond Blair, the oldest, led the West attack with menace.

They gave even seasoned Soccerroos Alex Tobin and Milan Ivanovic their most uncomfortable evening of the season though the opposing pair probably broke even over the night.

Blair split open the City defence in 79 minutes with an incisive through ball. Agostino pounced like a panther. He carried the ball a couple of steps

forward and hit a sweet left-foot shot past the advancing Robert Zabica.

City, which dominated the first 20 minutes but later succumbed to West's domination of midfield where Mark Brazzale was a guiding light, rallied in the final 10 minutes.

Robert Csoboth turned in two telling crosses but out of touch Steve Maxwell and then Carl Veart scorned the opportunities.

West, though, deserved the spoils for a battling teams effort, working to a well engineered plan from coach Nick Pantaras.

Captain Greg Mills emerged from the jubilant West rooms later to say it all: "What a great win. We've waited a long time for this. Everybody was a best player. It was a great team performance."

Several City players, including skipper and top performer Alex Tobin, took time to congratulate West in a

show of sportsmanship appreciated by the great rival.

City boss Zoran Matic showed little emotion. "We lost the game and have to congratulate the winner," he said sombrely. "I am disappointed with the effort level in some areas. But it is a game and life goes on. We have to regroup."

West's English import Darren Fletcher, who set the mood for an aggressive, uncompromising no quarters asked derby with four early bone-crunching, ball-winning tackles, was ecstatic. "Unbelievable," he said, a huge swelling over his left eye, courtesy of one more moment of contact. "I have never played in anything like that."

"It was a good team performance. I was very happy to come through with it being my first serious game in 11 weeks after the knee operation."

City, lacking passion

and flair in its play, had few winners. Tobin and sweeper Milan Ivanovic were stand-outs in defence and Robert Csoboth made some useful contributions but City really went down without much of a roar.

"City was on top for the first 20 minutes but then we came back into it in the first-half and had the better of the second," said delighted West boss Nick Pantaras.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica, Shillabeer, Brooks, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mella, Tapal (illc 58m), Veart, Mullen, Maxwell, Csoboth. R. Aloiel not used.

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Milla, Canosa, Reynolds, Slager, Karamidas, Fletcher, Brazzale, Agostino, Briscoe, Blair. Sub: Santac. Hiern not used.

SCORES: West Adelaide (Agostino 79m).

YELLOW CARDS: Canosa (West 20m).

REFEREE: John Santa Isabel (Victoria).

CROWD: 13,000.

VOTES: 3 — Slager (West), 2 — Blair (West), 1 — Fletcher (West).



West's Robbie Slager

After this a welcome three week lay-off

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

ROUND 18 heralds the final weekend of matches prior to the enforced three week lay-off for the Swedish Internationals, with Adelaide City's Italian job at Marconi and Olympic's visit to Melbourne Croatia the stand out fixtures.

While Marconi's Championship challenge was virtually shown the door following the loss at Wollongong, the Fairfielders always provide a spectacle when the zebras come to town.

The Bossley Park brand has never been right this campaign, with coach Bert Mariani unable to settle a Je owing to injuries, suspensions, and general upheaval that have dogged the Rolls Royce outfit to date.

Mariani will hope to include John Markovski and David Lowe back into the fray, missing through injury for the Wolves match.

Marconi's much prized home record has been shattered this season, the Bossley Park men have won only twice at headquarters in eight starts to date, losing the last two on the trot.

City, however, have failed to take their brilliant home form on the road, drawing five and losing one in their last six away from Hindmarsh.

The visitors have drawn all three matches in Sydney this season, and an expected improved performance from Mariani's men, who have won just once in their last eight league matches, makes a draw look certain.

Sydney Olympic's true credentials for the Championship will be tested this Sunday, when they pay form side Melbourne Croatia a visit.

Club skipper Robbie Hooker should make a welcome return from injury to the Olympic defence for the journey south, however the visitors problems over the last eight matches are not at the back but seem to come from a lack of application in the middle of the park.

Although Olympic have failed to set the world on fire of late, they have continued to

pick up valuable points and have lost just once in their last eight matches.

It may well be the day of reckoning for Olympic, last season's runners up look in the mood to go one better this campaign, opening up a three point gap at the top, while unbeaten in their last nine matches.

The Melbourne side have recovered well from some early set backs, losing key-men Ivan Kelic and Andrew Marth through injury, unearthing another goal scoring machine in Damien Mori to provide the perfect foil for flamboyant striker Francis Awartefe.

Olympic have never beaten Melbourne Croatia on their own turf in the six matches played down the years, and with just two victories on the road in their last eight, the visitors could be on the wrong end of the scoreline once again.

Surprise top five challengers, Wollongong City, should have Charlie Yankos and Mike Smith back from suspension for their journey to Heidelberg this weekend.

Riding high in second spot, David Ratcliffe has provided yet another South Coast side with the potential to beat the best, living on a shoestring budget and without the luxury of an endless supply of recognised stars.

In fact the Wolves have shown a resolute belief in their own ability, despite losing key playmaker Alex Bundalo through injury for the remainder of the season.

While the South Coasters style is often less than pretty, their promotion of youth into the helter skelter of football in the top flight, has added flavour to the battle at the top of the ladder.

Wollongong have by far the best defensive record in the league, and no side has been able to score more than once all season against their stoic backline.

The Bergers improvement of late will be sorely tested by their ambitious visitors, who have lost just one of their last five away, and have beaten Heidelberg in seven of ten clashes between the two sides.

South Melbourne's worst run in four years could continue when they visit giant-killing West Adelaide on Sunday evening.

A severely depleted Souths have enjoyed a somewhat unhappy Christmas, slipping to fourth, registering just one victory in their last six matches during a three week horror patch.

Ferenc Puskas' patchwork side will travel to Hindmarsh without Soccerroo defender Mehmet Durakovic

(suspended), while Danny Wright, Paul Trimboli, David Healy and Steve Blair remain in doubt through injury.

The Sharks on the other hand have enjoyed seven of their last eight matches parked at their beloved Hindmarsh, beaten just once in their last seven

matches on their home patch.

Parramatta Melita and APIA should pick up their full quota when they host the out of form Preston and Newcastle respectively, while a draw looks on the cards when Sydney Croatia visit Brisbane United.

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SOCCER POOLS

THE
POOLS

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 11/1/92 — WEEK 337

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 338
SAT. 18th JANUARY, 1992

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	LEEDS	CRYSTAL PALACE	1
	LUTON	WEST HAM	2
	MAN. CITY	COVENTRY	3
	NOTTS. CITY	MAN. UTD.	4
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	DLDHAM	LIVERPOOL	5
	D.P.R.	ARSENAL	6
	SHEFF. UTD.	NORWICH	7
	WIMBLEDON	CHELSEA	8
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BARNLEY	PLYMOUTH	9
	BRISTOL CITY	SOUTHEND	10
	CAMBRIDGE U.	GRIMSBY	11
	DERBY	SUNDERLAND	12
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	IPSWICH	BRISTOL R.	13
	LEICESTER	SWINDON	14
	MILLWALL	MIDDLESBRO	15
	NEWCASTLE	CHARLTON	16
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	OXFORD UTD.	PORT VALE	17
	PORTSMOUTH	BLACKBURN	18
	WOLVES	WATFORD	19
	BOLTON	HARTLEPOOL	20
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	BOURNEMOUTH	WIGAN A.	21
	BRADFORD C.	HULL	22
	CHESTER	BRENTFORD	23
	FULHAM	SHREWSBURY	24
ENGLISH DIVISION 7	HUDDERSFIELD	PETERBORO	25
	LEYTON O.	WEST BROM.	26
	PRESTON	EXETER	27
	STOCKPORT	DARLINGTON	28
ENGLISH DIVISION 8	STOKE	READING	29
	SWANSEA	BIRMINGHAM	30
	TORQUAY	BURY	31
	BURNLEY	GILLINGHAM	32
ENGLISH DIVISION 9	CHESTERFIELD	DONCASTER	33
	HALIFAX	SCUNTHORPE	34
	HEREFORD	BLACKPOOL	35
	LINCOLN	WREXHAM	36
ENGLISH DIVISION 10	MAIDSTONE	NORTHAMPTON	37
	ROCHDALE	CREWE	38
RESERVE MATCHES			
ENGL. DIV. 1	ROTHERHAM	MANSFIELD	39
	WALSALL	CARDIFF	40
	YORK	CARLISLE	41
	BUXTON	CHOP. EY	42
ENGL. DIV. 2	EMLEY	MARINE	43
	FIRELEY A.	FLEETWOOD	44
	HORWICH	SHEPHERD	45
	AJURIE	HEARTS	46
ENGL. DIV. 3	DUNDEE U.	ST. MIRREN	47
	DUNFERMLINE	CELTIC	48
	FALKIRK	ABERDEEN	49
	HIBERNIAN	S. JOHNSTONE	50
ENGL. DIV. 4	RANGERS	MOTHERWELL	51
	CLYDEBANK	RAITH	52
	FORFAR	DUNDEE	53
	KILMARNOCK	HAMILTON	54
ENGL. DIV. 5	MEADOWBANK	PARTICK	55

Get your Pools in!

It takes only six numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 337
SAT. 11th JANUARY 1992

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CHELSEA	TOTTENHAM	1-2-0
	COVENTRY	O.P.R.	2-2-2
	CRYSTAL PALACE	MAN. CITY	3-1-1
	LIVERPOOL	LUTON	4-2-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	NORWICH	OLDHAM	5-1-2
	NOTTINGHAM F.	NOTTS. C.	6-1-1
	SOUTHAMPTON	SHEFF. UTD.	7-2-4
	WEST HAM	WIMBLEDON	8-1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BLACKBURN	BRISTOL C.	9-4-0
	BRIGHTON	BARNLEY	10-3-1
	BRISTOL R.	TRANMERE	11-1-0
	GRIMSBY	OXFORD UTD.	12-1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	MIDDLESBRO	IPSWICH	13-1-0
	PLYMOUTH	LEICESTER	14-2-2
	PORTVALE	PORTSMOUTH	15-0-2
	SOUTHEND	DERBY	16-1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	SUNDERLAND	MILLWALL	17-6-2
	SWINDON	CAMBRIDGE U.	18-0-2
	WATFORD	NEWCASTLE	19-2-2
	BIRMINGHAM	LEYTON O.	20-2-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	BRENTFORD	STOKE	21-2-0
	BURY	SWANSEA	22-1-0
	DARLINGTON	TORQUAY	23-3-2
	EXETER	BOLTON	24-2-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 7	HARTLEPOOL	CHESTER	25-1-0
	HULL	STOCKPORT	26-0-2
	PETERBORO	FULHAM	27-4-1
	READING	HUDDERSFIELD	28-1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 8	SHREWSBURY	PRESTON	29-2-0
	WEST BROM.	BOURNEMOUTH	30-4-0
	WIGAN A.	BRADFORD CITY	31-2-1
	BARNET	ROTHERHAM	32-2-5
ENGLISH DIVISION 9	BLACKPOOL	BURNLEY	33-5-2
	CARDIFF	HEREFORD	34-1-0
	CARLISLE	ROCHDALE	35-0-0
	CREWE	LINCOLN	36-1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 10	DONCASTER	HALIFAX	37-0-2
	GILLINGHAM	WALSALL	38-4-0

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED																		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
39	44	63	29	36	62	44	85	54	70	12	0	1	2	4	7	10	28	0

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools.

RESULTS OF
WEEK 337 SAT JANUARY 11, 1992

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):
2, 8, 14, 19, 20, 24.
Supplementary Number: 6.

UK SOCCER RESULTS AND TABLES

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE															
Arsenal	0	Aston Villa	0	Chelsea	2	Tottenham	0	Hartlepool	24	10	6	8	34	21	36
Coventry	2	Queens Park Rangers	2	Crystal Palace	1	Manchester City	1	Liverpool	24	9	6	6	32	28	35
Manchester United	1	Everton	0	Norwich	1	Oldham	1	Sheff. Utd.	24	9	6	6	32	28	35
Nottingham Forest	1	Notts County	1	Southampton	2	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Reading	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Walsall	1	Wolves	1	Exeter	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Swindon	0	Cardiff	0	Derby	0	Millwall	0	Fulham	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Preston	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Torquay	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Hull	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Swansea	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Bury	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Bradford	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Darlington	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Wigan	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Chester	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
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Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Sheff. Wednesday	24	8	9	7	29	32	33
Walsall	0	Sheff. Wednesday	1	Wimbledon	1	Wolves	1	Sheff. Wednesday							

ALL THE NSL YOUTH LEAGUE ACTION

SOUTHERN DIVISION

BY ROY HAY

League leader Heidelberg United was lucky to scrape home with a 1-0 win over South Melbourne Hellas Colts at Olympic Village on Saturday in Round 17 of the National Youth League.

On chances and attempts at goal the Colts would have been the winner. In the first half, Jim Karakirakos, George Kalimeris and Peter Tragakis of Colts came close to scoring, while only a fierce tackle by Spiros Kollevris kept Eric Vassiliadis of Heidelberg from grabbing the lead.

After the interval, Mario Crivani of Heidelberg was sent off for abusive language and Spiros Kollevris had the ball in the net for Colts, but the linesman had already flagged for offside.

Pablo Gomez of Colts powered in a shot which flew off the top of the cross-bar and Heidelberg had decided to settle for a point, when Joe Palatsides crashed to the ground on the edge of the box. Palatsides

scored from the spot, much to the relief of his colleagues and coach. The win maintained Heidelberg's three point lead.

Preston Makedonia crushed Fawcner by six goals to two in the end at Connor Reserve, but the first quarter of an hour saw four goals shared and a real struggle under way. Lou Bekiaris scored twice in that opening burst and Darren Anile and Ricky Ferla replied for Fawcner. In the second half, Fawcner had two players sent off and Bekiaris added two more goals and Chris Molina and Zlatko Ilievski chimed in with one each.

It was a very tight game at Paisley Reserve where Melbourne Croatia scored the only goal of the game against Altona Gate. Jani Suric claimed his 19th goal of the season after 33 minutes and that was all that separated the teams at the end. Ace Mijakovski, Drago Koleski and Pere Nicoski were the top players for the home team.

Two fine goals by Peter Nikolakopoulos gave South Melbourne Hellas a 2-0 win over Sunshine George Cross at Middle Park. Tom Markovski made his debut for George and Lou Stefanovski returned to

the side. Both keepers, Mike Liliakakis for Hellas and George's Dejan Stojkovski were in brilliant form, pulling off a series of breathtaking saves. The deadlock was finally ended in 42 minutes, when Markovski lost the ball in defence, Jim Iliopoulos and Peter Nikolakopoulos played a one-two and the latter belted the ball home. His second goal was even better and followed excellent leading up work by Chris Hoopless.

Croydon City overran Morwell Falcons by five goals to nil at Dorset Reserve. Croydon did not play at its best, but was always in control with two goals each by Archie McGeachey and Justin Scrobogna. Justin Hayhurst continued his run of goals with his sixth in the last five games to make his total six in all.

Melbourne Croatia Colts had a comfortable win over Springvale City at Somers Street, though Springie coach, Jimmy Rooney did not think that they were three goals between the teams. "They took their chances, we did not" he said. Leo Stolica scored twice for the Colts, one in each half, and Vinko Buljubasic and Paul Magdic got the others. David Grella

scored for Springie for whom Simon Della Rossa and Darren McClellan once again played very well.

The match between Brunswick United Juventus and Heidelberg United Colts scheduled for Schintler Reserve was not played after the pitch was declared unfit by the referee.

RESULTS

Altona Gate 0 Melbourne Croatia 1, South Melbourne Hellas 2 Sunshine George Cross 0, Preston Makedonia 6 Fawcner 2, Croydon City 5 Morwell Falcons 0, Melbourne Croatia Colts 4 Springvale City 1, Brunswick United Juventus v Heidelberg United Colts (match not played, pitch unfit).

LEADING SCORERS

19 Jani Suric (Melb Croatia)
12 Tony Neceveski (Altona Gate)
11 Mark Viduka (Melb Croatia), Nick Georgopoulos (Preston Makedonia),
8 Richard Milanovic (Melb Croatia Colts), Paul Kaukainen (Croydon City), Jim Iliopoulos (Sth Melb Hellas), John Pappas (Sth Melb Hellas Colts)
7 Marjan Jokicovski (Altona Gate), Justin Hayhurst (Croydon City), Leo Stolica (Melb Croatia), Zlatko Vukic (Melb Croatia Colts), Peter Nikolakopoulos (Sth Melb Hellas), Vasko Trpcovski (Sunshine George Cross).

LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg U	17	12	4	1	30	13	28
Melb Croatia	17	12	1	4	56	21	25
Preston Mako	16	11	3	2	41	15	25
Sth Melb H/C	17	9	2	6	37	15	24
Sth Melb H/C	17	9	2	6	33	20	20
Altona Gate	17	9	1	7	34	27	19
Croydon City	17	9	0	8	34	30	18
Sunshine GC	16	4	4	8	33	24	16
Melb Cr C	16	7	1	8	34	43	15
Morwell F	17	4	3	10	21	36	11
Briswick Utd	14	2	6	6	20	28	10
Springvale C	16	3	2	11	12	40	8
H'berg Utd C	16	3	1	12	20	53	7
Fawcner	16	0	2	14	12	46	2

NORTHERN DIVISION

BY DAVID COOPER

THE top of the table saw no changes from last week as all the leading team recorded wins, while Adamstown Rosebuds pushed St George to last place, after they thrashed Highfields Azzurri.

Sydney Croatia maintained the top position care of a solid 4-0 win against Newcastle Breakers. They set up their win in the first half with three goals. Former AIS player, Ante Moric scored two late goals in the half, while leading goalscorer Ante Milicic added to his tally opening up the scoring. The lone goal of the second half was scored by Mirko Juraj.

Melita Eagles did it the hard way against an unlucky Sydney Olympic Colts side, finally winning 2-1.

Melita started off magnificently when Jorge Vasquez crashed his volley home from near the edge of the box. However from there on, the Colts took control, harassing Melita off the ball and setting up several goal opportunities. Midway through the first half, Emanuel Paulidis evened up the game when he rounded Reda and shot from 22 yards giving Bouhoutos no chance. The killer goal for Melita came with less than 10 minutes to go when substitute Shaun Freestone was put free in the box and he coolly shot over the advancing keeper. The Colts side did not deserve such a fate as they played good attacking soccer and should have made more of opportunities that came their way.

Sydney Olympic served up a 5-0 defeat to St George, with five deffert players getting the goals. Leading only 1-0 at half-time

through a late goal from Peter Tsekenis, Olympic came out and score three quick goals from new player Laurie Campagna, Tony Alilovic and Tony Grouzas. John Nicita scored right on full-time to make it 5-0.

Marconi scored an impressive 4-0 win against fifth placed Wollongong City. Gabriel Mendez got the ball rolling when struck home the first and David Magrone back from a training stint in England made it 2-0 at half-time. Fabian Screpis lifted his goal scoring tally to 10 with a double strike late in the game.

RESULTS

Highfield Azzurri 1 (Webb) Adamstown Rosebuds 5 (Brady 2, Calmakas, Kacev, Lange), Wollongong City 0 Marconi 4 (Screpis 2, Mendez, Magrone), Sydney Olympic Colts 1 (Paulidis) Melita Eagles 2 (Vasquez, Freestone),

Sydney Croatia Colts 1 (Blokapi) AIS 3 (Moorre, Skoro, Marino), Sydney Croatia 4 (Moric 2, Milicic, Juraj) Newcastle Breakers 0, Sydney Olympic 5 Tsekenis, Campagna, Dvouzas, Alilovic, Nicita) St George 0, Wollongong Macedonia 0 Apia Leichhardt 5 (Akas 2, Stronits, Mazzotta, Hughes).

LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney Croatia	17	12	3	2	54	14	27
Melita Eagles	16	12	3	1	36	14	27
Sydney Olympic	17	13	0	4	45	17	26
Marconi	15	11	2	2	51	16	24
AIS	12	8	2	4	43	18	18
Wollongong C	16	7	3	6	30	23	17
Apia	17	7	3	7	28	31	17
Sydney Cr C	16	6	4	6	22	25	16
Newcastle B	17	6	2	9	23	31	14
Sydney C/C	17	4	3	10	26	42	11
Highfields Azz	16	3	2	11	19	45	8
Wollongong M	16	2	3	11	11	61	7
Adamstown R	15	2	2	11	13	37	6
St George	17	2	2	13	18	57	6

LEADING SCORERS

23 Ante Milicic (SC)
10 Darren Koca (M)
10 Fabian Screpis (M)
9 Ant Trnitsky (ME)

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DANA CUP-July in Denmark.
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ROUND 18

Saturday January 18

Marconi v Adelaide City 7pm Marconi Stadium
Brisbane Utd v Sydney Croatia 7pm Perry Park

Sunday January 19

Apia Leichhardt v Newcastle BHP 7pm Leichhardt Oval
Parra Melita v Preston 7pm Melita Stadium
Heidelberg Utd v Wollongong City 6pm Olympic Village
Melb Croatia v Sydney Olympic 6pm Somers Street
West Adelaide v Sth Melbourne 8pm Hindmarsh Stad

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Powerhouse Lawrie is ready for his comeback with the Demons

POWERHOUSE Lawrie McKinna is expected back at Blacktown City for the NSW Super League winter season, after recovering from a broken leg sustained last year.

He will again be partnering up with bustling Geoff Gunning in a danger-laden attack.

Club coach and former Soccerroo Ron Corry is assembling a team which will be a balanced blend of youth and experience.

He is extremely confident that players such as Craig Mason, Paul Bourke, Eddie Leeds, Scott Xuereb, Stan Suman and Damon Langan will provide the basis of a strong side.

The evergreen Mason, with his vast National League experience, proved just the sweeper the Demons needed in the 1991 campaign.

He helped to carry them to winning efforts in the NSW State League grand final as well as in the NSW Waratah State Cup.

Since last season Blacktown has recouped considerable funds by transferring out Dominic Longo and Darren Northam to Newcastle BHP Breakers, and John Gibson and Peter Bennett to Apia Leichhardt.

Paul Carter, on Blacktown's books but inactive, moved to Apia as well, whilst the club lost former Soccerroo custodian and on loan signing Mike Gibson to Newcastle.

The replacement goalkeeper will be Steve Mautone — expected back by the start of the season after injury.

Corry commented: "Players like Jason Connolly, Gary Comberford, Hayden Begbie and Matthew Heighway received first team exposure last year.

"They all have the ability to compete for regular places this year."

The hallmark of Corry's coaching has always been his readiness to identify and promote youthful prospects, and 1992 will see no exception to the rule.

At the same time he is looking at the possibilities of recruiting one or two senior players who are keen to join the club.

Blacktown won't begin training until Tuesday January 28.

"I like players to be completely refreshed when they start up, and the extra rest will do them no harm," he said.

Corry will be assisted by Ken Schembri, with Kelly Cross, who had a spell with Rosebery Portugal, taking over the Under 19s.

This year Mark Gannon has succeeded Greg Gynge as club president.

Brian Grant, a former secretary of the Granville and District Soccer Football Association and a member of the Blacktown Youth committee, replaces Bob Brooks as secretary.

"This year we have decided to share the Gabbie Stadium with West Wanderers, the Federation Division One club.

"Times, of course, aren't easy, and we will gain from rental income.

"They are a fine club and are coached by Allan Maher, yet another former Soccerroo goalkeeper."

Development and promotion at this stage will be attended to by Damon Langan, with Ken Schembri handling coaching clinics.



Lawrie McKinna: on the way back.

Pioneer Ken passes away in England

KEN GRIEVES, one of Australia's best goalkeepers of the 1940s, has died in England at the age of 66.

Whilst he went to England to play professional cricket in 1947, he soon made his mark as a goalkeeper in the English Football League.

His football career took him to Bury, for a short spell with Wigan Athletic, Bolton Wanderers and Stockport

County.

In Sydney he turned out for Australia's then No 1 club Leichhardt-Anandale, the predecessor of Apia Leichhardt at Lambert Park.

Grievess was tall, slender and extremely strong armed.

Had he stayed in Australia, he would have certainly played for the national team.

Coaching was not so advanced in his day, but one could only imagine how far he

would have advanced here had the opportunity presented himself.

Ken Grievess was a rare sportsman, representing NSW at a very young age in three sports — soccer, cricket and baseball.

A capable batsman and spinbowler, he was also a Test quality slips fieldman.

His local cricket and baseball were played with Petersham on Petersham Oval, and from there he went to Rawtenstall in the

Lancashire League, after which he had a long and successful career with the Lancashire county side.

In 1956 Lancashire rewarded him with a three-day testimonial match against Northamptonshire at Blackpool.

Grievess was a teammate of the great Joe Marston at Leichhardt.

Of Marston he said: "Joe was rated as one of the four best centre-halves in Great Britain

just prior to his return to Australia.

"In fact a large number of critics consider him their No 1 pivot."

Marston later was the outstanding captain of Apia, and went on to coach Western Suburbs.

Grievess back in 1956 was confident that many more Australian players would have succeeded in British football.

He believed that players of his era such as Jock McMahon,

Harry Robertson, Bill Wilson, Bob Bignall and Kevin O'Neill — and in early years 'Bully' Hughes, Jack 'Digger' Evans, 'Wagga' Wallace, Cec Mowatt and many others would have made the grade in the UK.

Over 35 years ago he made a recommendation to enable Australia to compete with other strong football countries of the world.

He advocated a select squad of 22 players be chosen and schoo-

led together every week.

"You have no idea how that squad would come on under expert coaching," he said.

The pity is that his advice went unheeded.

Sporting careers can come about in unusual ways.

Ken Grievess may never have gone to England at all, had it not been for a change of heart by that great cricket allrounder, Keith Miller.

GREG BLAKE PULLS NO PUNCHES

Angie started badly and is now in the doldrums!



CSABAI GIVEN BOOT!

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas has sensationally dumped lauded Canadian import Robert Csabai.

Csabai met with South Melbourne officials last week to discuss the final details of his departure from Middle Park — only three months after joining the club on loan from Hungarian side Honved.

Csabai is the son of Josef Csabai of Ferencvaros and Zaragoza fame and the family has close ties with current South coach Ferenc Puskas.

It was at the insistence of Puskas that Csabai junior, was bought to Melbourne as a visa player, on loan until May.

It is believed both the club and Csabai were disappointed with the union.

Csabai told ABSW that he wasn't prepared to comment on the 'sacking' until he had sorted out details with the club and then spoken to his manager.

The 22 year-old native Canadian promised to reveal all in a press statement, although sources at the club believe a combination of first team opportunities and broken promises by the club hastened his departure.

South Melbourne president George Vasiliopoulos said that although Csabai's position was under scrutiny, the player had forced the issue on the eve of the club's 5-2 thrashing at Apia nine days ago.

"Frankly, I was very disappointed in his attitude", Vasiliopoulos told ABSW.

"I had told him already that things had not been working out with him the way we had wanted to."

"I had talked to him on the Wednesday and told him we would be assessing his situation although we didn't expect to do that for a couple of weeks."

"It seems he took the conversation to heart and told me he wanted to talk to me on the spot at a luncheon two days later."

"My season has fallen apart — it started badly and has ended even worse".

That is the reaction of South Melbourne skipper Angie Postecoglou to the news that he is destined to miss the rest of the 1991/92 campaign as the Middle Park wild bunch chases back-to-back NSL title for the first time.

Postecoglou, only nine months of leading the Blues out of the wilderness in spectacular fashion on grand final day, will go into hospital on January 20 for a knee operation which will sideline him for six months.

And it is no surprise to anyone that the news has come as a blow cruel blow to the dogged left back veteran of two previous title campaigns.

"It's pretty hard to take I can tell you", Postecoglou told ABSW this week.

"We could be on the verge of a very special year for the club and I wanted so much to be involved again."

"I've tried to stay involved, going into the dressing rooms to try and gee the boys up and that."

"But it really is a hopeless feeling and very hard to take."

"So far I've handled it and I guess I'll cope."

"But I just cannot express how very, very disappointed I am."

Postecoglou injured his knee in the club's November thrashing of Heidelberg at Middle Park.

After hobbling off the ground ten minutes into the game, the knee swelled up but 'felt OK' in the week after the game.

With South Melbourne's injury problems mounting Postecoglou, with the help of cortisone injections, made a valiant comeback against Olympic but after struggling through the 90 minutes the knee blew up again and the Blues' captain was forced into an arthroscopy.

The news was all bad, with a layer of cartilage having torn away, meaning bone grafting on to the knee cap to get it back into playing shape.

"The ligaments are fine and the knee is sound in structure, but it is a virtual reconstruction in that I'll be out for at least six months", Postecoglou explained.

"It means all that time with virtually nothing to do and that is a pretty depressing thought."

"But I had the opti-

on of struggling through this year and wait until the end of the finals and then having the operation, which would have meant being out for much of next year."

"I just sat down and thought about it and decided I'd be better off being right for next year."

"I'm still only 26, so I've got time on my side."

"It's so disappointing not being out there."

Although early press reports suggested the career of the veteran of the 1984 title campaign might be in doubt, Postecoglou is hoping for the best.

"All sorts of things go through your mind but at the moment it is just a case of keeping my fingers crossed", he said.

"All the (South Melbourne) boys have been fantastic in their support since the injury, but they've got a job to do and I want them to get on with it."

"They can stop feeling sorry for me and get their minds on winning the championship again."

"Mark my words, they'll go close again and I'll be wrapped for them if they win it again."

"I'll certainly be in there supporting them."



ANGIE POSTECOGLU

Old King Cole doing it the hard way

THE 1991/92 season has been some initiation into NSL coaching ranks for former Heidelberg goalscoring golden-boy Gary Cole.

A serious motor accident in mid-1991 almost put his senior coaching career on hold permanently, his revamped side has toyed with his emotions all season, Paul Lewis has walked in and then back out on Olympic Village, the team has hit rock-bottom of the ladder, injuries to key players has created havoc and now faithful assistant coach John Kennedy has fallen foul of Heidelberg's budget cuts, along with fringe players Nick Van Egmond and Joe Spiteri.

The latter blow was particularly telling for Cole.

Kennedy had been Cole's greatest support as he recovered from the injuries inflicted in the accident to the extent of running the two senior sides whilst Cole was hospitalised.

To Cole's credit he has carried himself with dignity throughout, emerging from some less than memorable performances with a trademark grin.

Cole, who hopes to have Kennedy return to

the club should the financial situation improve, is surviving if not thriving.

And despite the trials, he has retained his beliefs in the Heidelberg side.

"We are still not good enough at doing the things we can do for long enough", is the way he surveys the situation at the half way point of his first year.

"That's what we are looking to put right."

"We're working away and we'll keep working and we're getting better and better and we just have to get better for longer."

"In the game against Sydney Croatia we were champagne and caviar for the first 45 minutes and then we were a load of bollocks after that."

"We still have to look at why that happens, make people accountable for their actions and then look to put it right."

Cole reacts angrily to suggestions that he is conjuring excuses to cover for a sub-standard team.

The former goalscoring legend says the supporters who have been critical and impatient must decide on their priorities.

"It depends on what they want", he says defiantly.

"Heidelberg approached me to put together a side that was going to be around and do a lot better in the second year — and they will."

"I honestly believe that this side was good enough to finish in the top five but that's obviously been proved wrong."

"It doesn't matter though, there's no contract with Heidelberg and if they want to part company with me next week, then that's fine."

"I don't come cheap, so they are not keeping me because I work cheap."

"Success hasn't been as immediate as I would have liked either but we have two choices."

"We can either quit or keep going and I have never quit anything in my life and I don't intend to start now."

"There is a good atmosphere around the place and they are a great bunch of guys with a tremendous attitude."

"This club is where South Melbourne and Adelaide City were four or five years ago, with a young side that is going to be together for a long time."

"And they will be a success."

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PASCOE VALE SPORTSCENE

All the latest news from Victoria

Terry wants to play the magician

BY GREG BLAKE

FORMER Sydneysider Terry Patalis has his sights set on turning struggling Heidelberg into a team to be reckoned with before returning north.

And although his heart is still in the city of harbour bridges and opera houses, Patalis is intent on making his NSL return in Melbourne a memorable one.

The 27-year-old, after three years in Greece with first AEK and then as skipper of second division Kalitheia, slipped into Olympic Village almost without notice two months ago.

Virtually ignored by former club Sydney Olympic and unimpressed by Apia on his return, Patalis has vowed to make the most of his chance with Heidelberg.

"In the end I just got a call at home in Sydney asking me if I was interested (in coming to Heidelberg)", Patalis explained to ABSW.

"I wanted to join up with Sydney Olympic again but (coach) Mick Hickman and (president) George Paschalis were stringing me along, saying one week yes and then not really following along.

"In the end I just told them to forget

about it.

"I trained at Apia for one night but I wasn't impressed there — it was like a graveyard.

"So when I got the call I thought I might as well come down and play for Heidelberg.

"And I'm certainly enjoying it, everything is coming along pretty well.

"(Coach) Gary Cole has put me in midfield now and that's given me a lot more confidence on the ball and helped me get involved in the game a lot more."

Although somewhat shocked by the cut-throat nature of professional football in Greece and Europe, Patalis has a clear message for any youngsters contemplating a move overseas.

According to him, if you get the chance, grasp it with both hands.

"Going over there has made me a lot wiser", he says.

"It's very professional and coming home here where the game is still almost amateur is quite a change.

"In Greece there is a lot of backstabbing.

"Players have got so much competition for their places and people are always trying to get to you to take your position from you.

"You can only learn from that, and it was certainly worth the experience.

"If you finish playing having never gone overseas you'll probably always regret at least not giving it a try.

"With me, I've had the experience now and I'm glad I did."

It is clear that Patalis isn't about to make any promises about his footballing future further than the end of his one season agreement with the Bergers.

NSW is the favoured option — although he doesn't quite say as much.

"It's not bad", he says of his temporary Melbourne base.

"At least Sydney's not too far away — only an hour by plane and that suits me fine.

"But then again who knows, I might stay on.

"This (Heidelberg) side is a team on the rise and if they keep all the good young players there at the moment and maybe just add a couple of experienced players, it will be a force in the NSL.

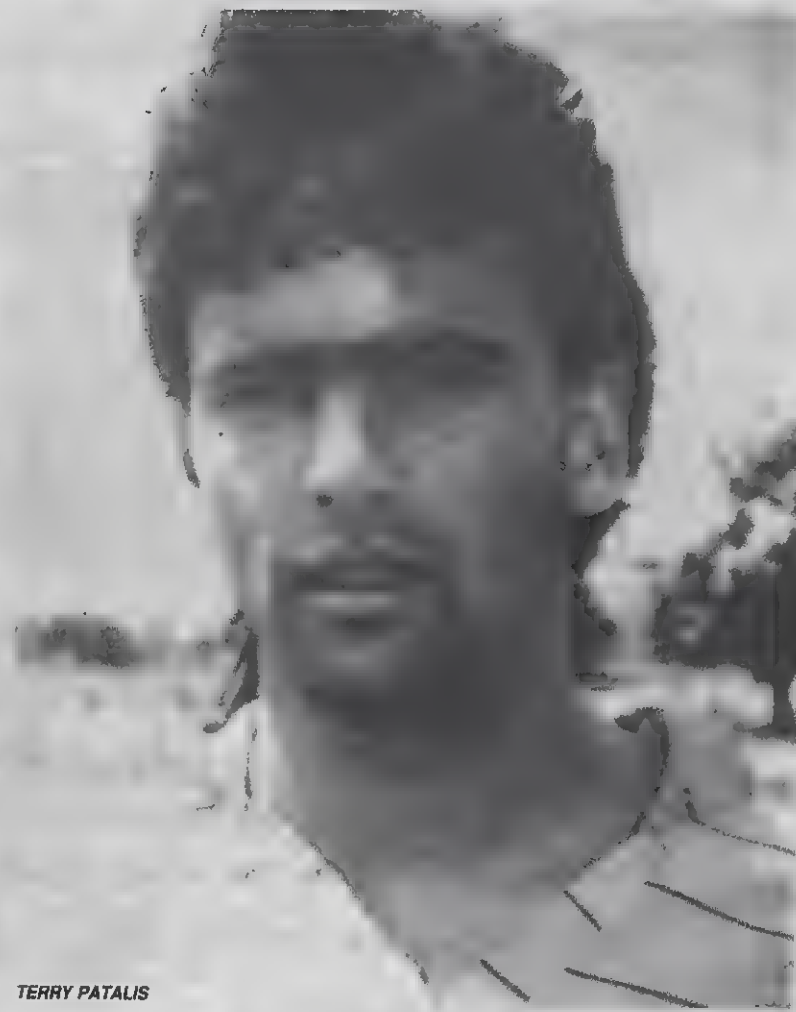
"Gary Cole is new on the scene, but all the players are 100 percent behind him.

"He knows how to talk to the players — how to relate.

"He's only just finished playing so he knows what players need and how to respond to them.

"His coaching methods are very good as well and I'm very happy working under him".

TERRY PATALIS



Poor Old Jeff is not out!

BATTLING Heidelberg should rightly be facing the rest of this bleak season without its first choice goalkeeper, former Socceroo number one Jeff Oliver.

In the club's round 16 Christmas eve clash with West Adelaide the courageous Oliver tangled with the Sharks' Raymond Blair in a fierce penalty area collision.

Both players hit the turf in a tangle, but whilst Blair dusted himself off and walked away the Heidelberg champion was left writhing on the dirt as he clutched his left knee.

When the stretcher-bearers finally carted Oliver off the Olympic Village ground just three minutes from the



JEFF OLIVER

end of the game the home fans feared the worst, as did Oliver himself.

But three games later

— including one where they were forced into using a fourth string keeper — a relieved Oliver is back

on deck.

Although lesser incidents have sidelined players with knee problems for up to 12 months, Oliver knows he was dealt a fairly healthy slice of luck.

"My first thoughts were that I had done the lot", says Oliver reflecting on one of the more dramatic physical clashes of the season.

"I thought it would be a knee reconstruction job for sure.

"With any injury like that, especially when you get carried off, the first thought is that it is serious.

"When the physio told me it was a grade two tear, you have no idea of how relieved I was."

With the medial ligament cleared of any major damage Oliver spent three weeks of intense work in the

pool and on the track to get back to help the struggling Heidelberg side.

And why wouldn't he want to rush back, given that Oliver's performances this season have been clearly as good as any he has produced in the past three years.

At 30 Oliver hasn't given up his Socceroo aspirations, particularly given the trend of international goalkeepers not peaking until well into their 30s.

"But my immediate

priorities are just helping Heidelberg out of trouble", he says.

"The club is on the right track, the players have great faith in (coach) Gary Cole and I believe we are not too far away.

"With the squad that we've got we feel that we should be higher up the ladder and hopefully we will get things going in the second half of the season.

"You've just got to keep your belief in things.

"We believe in ourselves, we believe in our young players and we certainly believe in Gary Cole.

"I have no doubt that we will slowly but surely climb the ladder.

"In the past Heidelberg has bought older players who have only managed one or two years service.

"Now the club is building a team to last it four or five years and that type of stability is going to hold it in good stead in the future."

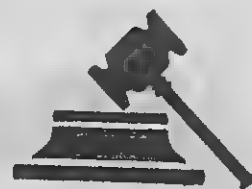
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JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY

African Nations' Cup is sure to be thrilling!



up features some impressive teams, none the least the Nigerians and Egyptians, both of whom have been consistent performers at previous African Nations Cup finals.

Draw for the ANC:
 ★ January 12 (Dakar) Cameroon v Morocco 1-0
 Senegal v Nigeria
 ★ January 13 (Ziguinchor) Algeria v Ivory Coast 0-3
 Egypt v Zambia 0-1
 ★ January 14 (Dakar) Nigeria v Kenya
 Morocco v Zaïre
 ★ January 15 (Ziguinchor) Ivory Coast v Congo
 Zambia v Ghana
 ★ January 16 (Dakar) Cameroon v Zaïre
 Senegal v Kenya
 ★ January 17 (Ziguinchor) Algeria v Congo
 Egypt v Ghana
 ★ January 19/20: quarter-finals at Dakar
 ★ JANUARY 23: Semis, Dakar
 ★ JANUARY 25: 3/4th play off, Dakar
 ★ JANUARY 26: FINAL, Dakar

The International Football Federation (FIFA) told Swansea to release Nigerian defender Ruben Agboola for the African Nations' Cup.

Nigeria want Agboola, 29, for the opening game of the African Nations' Cup against Senegal in Dakar on Sunday but the club said he was needed for an English third division match at Bury.

FIFA ruled that the country must come before the club.



Ghanian star Nii Lamptey with the trophy his under 17 team won at the 1991 world championships in Italy. Lamptey will team up with Marseille star Abedi Pele to create a formidable striking force at the African Nations' Cup now under way in Senegal.

BY the time ABSW readers see this article I will have just witnessed the opening round of the African Nations' Cup in Dakar, Senegal.

Here 12 nations have won their way through to the final series — Cameroun, Morocco, Zaïre, Egypt, Ghana, Zambia, Congo, Ivory Coast, Algeria, Senegal, Nigeria and Kenya.

The two-week long tournament (final Australia Day, January 26) is being played in two cities — Dakar, the capital and Ziguinchor, some 300 kilometres south of Dakar.

I jumped at the opportunity to take in the African finals because, like many, I see African football as the world's leading continent in the 21st century.

Perhaps, a high opinion but those who have followed the progress of African football over the years have to admire not only what they have achieved but the manner in which they achieved it.

The man in the street struggles to name the World Cup winner, but everyone mentions Cameroun.

Under 17

It was during the

AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP HONOURS LIST

1957 Egypt	1976 Morocco
1959 Egypt	1978 Ghana
1962 Ethiopia	1980 Nigeria
1963 Ghana	1982 Ghana
1965 Ghana	1984 Cameroun
1968 Zaïre	1986 Egypt
1970 Sudan	1988 Cameroun
1972 Congo	1990 Algeria
1974 Zaïre	

Under 17 World Cup in Tuscany last year that I met and became close friend with the Congolese national coach, Joachim Fickert, who told me "there are at least nine other African nations as good as Cameroun".

Hopefully I will be able to get some news and views through to readers in the coming weeks on what should be an exciting tournament.

The format for the ANC is four groups of three — the top two advancing to the quarter-finals.

The groups are:
 • Group A: Senegal, Nigeria, Kenya
 • Group B: Cameroun, Morocco, Zaïre
 • Group C: Ivory Coast, Congo, Algeria
 • Group D: Egypt, Zambia, Ghana

All 12 countries have taken part in the final competition before, eight of them winning it.

This tournament

promises to be the best-ever with its expanded format and the move from March to January to accommodate the growing band of professionals now based in Europe.

Some of the most exciting players in the world will be on show including Abedi Pele of Marseille and his Ghanaian compatriot Nii Odaty Lamptey from Belgian champions Anderlecht.

Ghana were the first nation to qualify from the preliminary competition for which 34 nations entered.

Ghana, favourites for this tournament, went six matches in the prelims without conceding a goal before dropping three points in their final two matches.

But there will certainly be stiff opposition from the likes of hosts Senegal, defending champions Algeria and World Cup upstarts Cameroun.

The rest of the line-

Swedes going to be very busy

Sweden will use its upcoming Australian soccer tour as a litmus test for its hosting of the European Championships later this year.

Australia meets Sweden in Sydney on Australia Day, Sunday January 26, followed up by further clashes in Adelaide (Wednesday January 29) and in Melbourne (Sunday February 2).

Although Swedish coach Tommy Svensson has 10 players unavailable due to service with foreign clubs, he has no doubt about the quality of his squad.

He's already classed 11 players in the tour party as certainties to win places in the European Championship

squad. "In fact the entire 20 are very anxious to do their utmost to win nomination for the Championship," Svensson said.

"The three matches against Australia are a very important step along the way."

The automatic choices include Mats Gren, the Grasshoppers star who won selection as the best player in the Swiss League.

Also chosen will be goalkeepers Thomas Ravelli and Lars Eriksson and defenders Jan Eriksson, Peter Larsson and Mikael Nilsson.

Midfielders who will be on the job are Stefan Rehn, Hakan Mild and Magnus Erlingmark, along with forwards Johnny Ek-



MATS GREN

strom, Jonny Rodlund and Niclas Kindvall. None are short of experience, either at

home or abroad. Newcomer Rodlund has been with Anderlecht and Manchester

United.

Along with Kindvall, they have been chosen to replace Ulrik Jansson and Jean-Paul Vonderburg in the 20-man squad.

Larsson has played for Ajax, Rehn spent some time with Everton, whilst Ekstrom's wanderlust has seen him turn out with Empoli in Italy, Bayern Munich in Germany and Cannes in France.

Australian coach Eddie Thomson is very impressed with the potential strength of the visitors.

"With five players from Swedish Champion IFK Goteborg and four from second-placed Norrkoping, it is obvious that their basic combination is already in place," he said.

FIFA says no quickie

FIFA has dashed South Africa's hopes of a quick return to international football.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said last week: "FIFA's congress expelled South Africa in 1976 for their now-dismantled apartheid policies and only congress can readmit them."

FIFA's next congress meeting is in July. South African officials had named a 25-strong national squad last month, confident their return to international competition was imminent.

And a delegation from the South African Football Association is in Dakar, seeking readmission to the African Soccer Confederation (CAF) while the African Nations' Cup is in progress.

Tognoni said FIFA had agreed that a delegation from the republic could attend the CAF congress only as observers.

"They will have no voting rights," he said. Under FIFA statutes South Africa cannot play internationals against CAF member countries until they are back in the FIFA fold.

So Australia — and everyone else — will have to wait at least another eight months.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



Whistling Supermac

Top SA whistler Tom McRoe has realised a soccer dream by gaining his FIFA referee's badge.

McRoe has received recognition from soccer's governing body along with Victorian John Fraser and Peter Spiers, of NSW.

They join NSW trio Richard Lorenc, Gary Power and John McConnell and Queensland's Bill Monteverde as Australasian representatives on the FIFA list.

"I think I'll dye my hair again — green," joked SA's premier whistler.

"But, seriously, the FIFA badge is something referees dream about getting rather than planning for. It really has not struck me yet.

"It is the realisation of a dream.

"It is good recognition for the standard of refereeing in SA. We can stand comparison with anyone."

The honour is second time lucky for McRoe. He was nominated last year but missed out.

McRoe, 43, started refereeing in 1978 and reached the State League First Division panel by 1985. The following year he was linesman in the national league and became a referee there in 1988.

"I idolised people like Donald Campbell, Jim Jobstone and Dennis Stanley when I started," McRoe said. "I was given good advice by then State director of coaching Mick O'Malley. He told me to keep my head down and work hard and anything was possible.

"It has been a rocky road but a rocky road helps keep you awake. I would like to thank my wife Marie for her support. There were times when I felt like giving it away but she persuaded me to keep going."

Now, McRoe, who is manager of the functional test area with British Aerospace Australia, cannot wait to handle an international match.

"Just getting the badge is a privilege. Having an international soon is something I really hope for," McRoe said.



Adelaide City goalkeeper Robert Zabica who will be in action for the Socceroos against Sweden later this month.

State League club Polonia looks to have fixed up an outstanding new player for this season.

Siwomir Nowak, 26, from Polish club Odra Opole has signed and now awaits international clearance.

He has impressed in training with his new club.

Azzurri has given trials to outstanding young Adelaide City defender Paul Pezos.

Pezos is one of several players who are too old for the City youth team but not yet established enough to challenge for a Coca-Cola Soccer League role.

Meanwhile, City trio goalkeeper Denis Martinello, defender Ron Grasso and midfielder Enzo Perre has joined outstanding Seaford midfielder marksman Bradley Armour as Beograd captures for the new season.

West Adelaide further could cut back its

Coca-Cola Soccer League squad after the Ampol Cup pre-season competition in SA.

"Several of the CCLSL players who have had injuries and fringe players in the squad will be used in the Ampol Cup in a blend with six or seven of our top youngsters," coach Nick Pantaras said.

"We also have to look at planning for the next national league season and we are looking at cutting some of the squad after the Ampol games." Australian national high school 'cap' Jim Tsekis and Frank Tibaldi, if he can steer clear of worrying injuries, are two likely West lads for the future.

The Ampol Cup series was launched at a barbecue function on Saturday hosted by the SA Soccer Federation at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Participating teams are holder Adelaide City, West Adelaide, Para Hills, Birkalla,

Salisbury, Croatia, Modbury and Azzurri.

Teenage Chilean striker Jaime Carreno looks sure to be drafted into the Salisbury attack for last week's Ampol Cup kick-off against holder Adelaide City at Hindmarsh.

Carreno, 17, who has played in the State under-15 side, could partner State senior squad man Tony Gasparetto.

A cloud is over the future at Salisbury of the Foundation SA League's most prolific scoring partnership of Jeff Tyson and Bryon Acton.

One or both of the strikers could be playing elsewhere next season.

And at least another two senior squad players may move.

The club, too, has deliberated long this summer over its coaching role but Bob Wincer, who took the Berries to a successful 1991, looks likely to gain the nod to carry on.

The delay in the club making a formal commitment has led to some uncertainty among players over their future.

Former Joey starlet Matthew Coutouvidis is under another cloud — through injury.

Coutouvidis, 17 in February, who played with the Jokeys in the world under-17 championships last year in Italy, broke his left ankle in Cup action here soon after his return.

The injury has not responded too well to rest and treatment.

"We think now he might have done some ligament damage," Mathew's dad, John said.

"The specialist has advised him to rest it for another few weeks and if things don't improve he might need surgery.

"He then would be in plaster for another six weeks and would need time after that to get things right. It is very disappointing for him."

Salisbury meets City at 9.05pm on the opening Ampol night.

Now Birkalla Eagles coach Zoran Maricic has some injury problems for the official Ampol Cup opener against Para Hills.

Maricic is keen to get off to a flying start in his new career at Camden but the long-term knee injuries of Gary Price and John Williams are cause for concern.

Chris Flaherty misses the first game through holidays while influential midfielder Kevin McCormack in the UK. The club hopes he can return on full resident status.

"We have a lot of injuries but we shall be giving the Cup our best shot," Maricic said. "I am very pleased with the way the lads have progressed in training."

"As a new coach here I am keen to get off to a good start and am confident we can do well."

One of the likely bright lights for the Eagles is young striker John Fontanarosa, who looks one of the real potential stars in SA.

Goalkeeper Fraser McLean has had a chequered pre-season after his appendix operation but he is back in full swing now.

Adelaide boy Jason Knight gradually is making the slow climb to soccer stardom with West Ham United in England.

The young midfielder, who is an apprentice with the London club, has broken into the Hammers' youth team which plays in the South-east Counties Division One.

Knight made his scoring debut in the FA Youth Cup clash against Kidderminster Harriers.

The former Naomunga player goes on tour to Dallas with West Ham in the summer and then will return on holiday to SA.

Robert Pletanesi this season will coach Saturday division one amateur league champion SA Italian Association.

Rick D'Arrigo will be his assistant.

The club holds a players' meeting on Wednesday from 8pm

★ PERSONALITY ★ ★★★ PLAYER ★★★

* Thomas Carl Veart *

(Adelaide City)



NAME: Thomas Carl Veart
BIRTHDATE: 21.5.70
BIRTHPLACE: South Australia
CITY: Whyalla
HEIGHT & WEIGHT: 184cm/78kgs
CAR: Laser TX3
MARRIED: No
OCCUPATION: Electrician
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Salisbury United & Croatia Whyalla
NICKNAME: Smash
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Adelaide City v Melbourne Croatia 6-0 90/91.
BIGGEST THRILL: Playing for Australia
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Broken leg
INTERNATIONAL OR OTHER HONOURS: Australian Olympic team
WORST INJURY: Broken leg
FAVOURITE POSITION: Goalkeeper
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Golf and cricket
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS CLUB: Manchester United
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Lee Sharp
FAVOURITE LOCAL PLAYER: All Adelaide City players
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: All opponents are difficult
FAVOURITE GROUND: Hindmarsh Stadium & Somers Street
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father & Zoran Maric
AMBITIONS: To play in England
PRE-MATCH MEAL: Scrambled Eggs
FAVOURITE FOODS: Steak
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: English Soccer
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Modern Music
BEST FRIEND: Girlfriend (Samantha)
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Losing
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: John Aloisi
MOST PERSON YOU'D LIKE TO MEET: Greg Norman
PREDICTION FOR TOP FIVE SERIES: Adelaide City, Melbourne Croatia, South Melbourne, Sydney Olympic, Marconi.

at its club-rooms.

Third Division amateur club West End United has fixed up four main sponsors for next season.

They are Bellby's P/L, Aussie Lounges, St Kilda Roses and Electrical Bargain Centre.

Adelaide City staged fireworks for Sunday's Coca-Cola Soc-

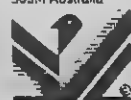
cer League derby with West Adelaide at Hindmarsh.

The club celebrated New Year with a spectacular fireworks display.

"We always try to do something special and different for the SA fans," club marketing boss David Jenkins said.

The display was backed by club sponsor Fairmonth Homes.

South Australia



Foundation
S.A.

South Australia



Foundation
S.A.

South Australia



Foundation
S.A.

South Australia



Foundation
S.A.

Clayton gets tonic as Robert settles down

A big bonus plan

GUY HAND LOOKS AT THE SUNSHINE STATE

BRISBANE United striker Clayton Koch is hoping the arrival of target man Robert Markovac will free him up to do what he does best — score goals.

The quietly-spoken Koch, one of United's unsung heroes in their debut NSL season, is looking forward to a chance to play alongside a recognised target man, rather than play as one himself.

"With Brisbane United, I've had to do a lot of the holding up and laying off of balls," Koch said.

"I found it really hard to get scoring opportunities because that's not really my game."

"But with Robbie coming to the club, it's freed me up a bit in the games we've played together."

"I'm still doing a bit of getting the ball to feet, but a lot of the time I'm getting to run with the ball and get it wherever I want it."

Koch, 21, has scored three goals this season and missed only one NSL match in 1991-92 — the 2-1 loss to Heidelberg a fortnight ago.

But what Koch would love is the chance to play in a three-pronged forward attack with Brisbane United, as he does with his XXXX League club Pine Rivers.

"With Pine Rivers, we play with John Preston doing most of the holding and laying off to others, then there's big Noel (Carroll) out wide."

"That frees me up to do what I want."

"But almost all the NSL sides play with two forwards, except for South Melbourne who often play with three."

Koch is no stranger to NSL combat, having played for Sydney Croatia last season.

But he failed to hold down a regular first team spot and for that reason is looking forward to doing battle with his old club on Saturday night at Perry Park.

Koch had a blinder in the first round clash with Croatia, with a super goal putting the icing on the cake.

"I think I've got a bit of a point to prove," Koch said.

"I'm looking forward to playing them again."

"They should be a bit better this time around than when we played them in Sydney."

Koch nominated skilful winger Manis Lamond as the man Brisbane must contain to beat Croatia.

"He doesn't score a lot, but he creates chances for others," Koch said.

"When you stop Manis, it stops the others."



CLAYTON KOCH

NEWLY-appointed Queensland director of coaching Jim Selby has unveiled ambitious plans for a State Academy of Soccer by the end of next year.

Selby, who started as State coaching director last week, said he hoped to have a State Academy of Soccer up and running in Queensland by the end of 1993.

He said the academy would give boys and girls from all over Queensland the chance to make the grade, with Brisbane United set to be the main beneficiary of the elite program.

"We've just been talking to the Queensland Academy of Sport this week trying to get the terminology right so we can tie our academy in with their academy," Selby said.

"What we're looking at doing this year is setting up coaching clinics in towns right throughout Queensland."

"From there, we can identify potential talent and send these better ones to regional clinics."

"This will give us the basis for our Potential Elite Players (PEP) program, from which we hope we'll get future State and Brisbane United players."

"Hopefully this will all lead to having our own State Academy of Soccer by 1993."

Selby said he was hoping a major sponsor could be secured for the town coaching clinics, otherwise they would have to be self-funding.

"With the regional clinics, we're looking at some self-funding and some sponsorship."

"We hope the academy could attract a big sponsor from the corporate sector."

Selby, who rose to prominence as coach of the Gold Coast Gamblers' senior team, said his main aim as State director of coaching was to give all players from all areas of Queensland "a fair go".

"Our main objective is that as a player or coach, you shouldn't be disadvantaged by where you live in the State," Selby said.

"You shouldn't be disadvantaged by a lack of facilities available to you in your area and that's what we hope this program can achieve."

The kids out in the cold!

QUEENSLAND'S under-16s survived sub-zero temperatures, playing on ash pitches and a physical battering at the hands of more experienced opponents on their recent tour of Germany.

The players toured Germany for four weeks, spending two weeks at the world-re-

nowned Heness Sports College, where the German men's team prepare before any big competitions.

The Queenslanders played the German under-16 team, also in camp at Heness, during their two weeks stay but lost 2-0.

While at Heness, the team also played a 1-1 draw with FC Koln's junior team and lost 5-0 to Germany's champion youth team.

Bayer Leverkusen.

The Maroons completed their tour with three games in Frankfurt, for two wins and a draw.

Queensland team coach Jim Selby said the trip had been a "character-building exercise" for the junior Maroons.

"It was a very enlightening trip for the players," Selby said.

"It gave them an understanding of what

level they have to work at to make it in the game."

Selby said the physical tactics of their opponents helped improve the skills of the Queenslanders.

"At the end of the four weeks, they became much tougher," Selby said.

"They didn't give the ball away as much as they did when they first started the tour because they knew

they wouldn't get it back if they did give it away."

"Considering the temperature dropped to -8 and -9 degrees at times and it was about 35 degrees at home when we left, they did really well."

"In one of the games, they had to play on a pitch made from ash — all the experiences helped build the players' characters."

Selby said the team consisted of players from Cairns in the State's north to the Gold Coast.

"The team was made up of players from all around the State who hadn't worked together before they went on the trip," he said.

"We're now hoping a number of these players can rise through to the Brisbane United NSL side."

ROAD TO C

Special Report By Ted Simmons

Expert Opinion

**EDDIE THOMSON
LES SCHEINFLUG
FRANK AROK
RALE RASIC
RUDI GUTENDORF
JOHN WARREN
JIMMY ROONEY
MANFRED SCHAEFER
JOHN KOSMINA**

'Home and Away' has suddenly become a popular phrase among the leading members of the football world.

Not the television soapie but the decision by FIFA on the road to be taken by Oceania to qualify for the finals of the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Now that the breast-beating and wailing is over, the excuses already given as to why we won't make it and the condemnation of FIFA for listing a minimum of 10 matches for Australia to qualify, let's have a more detailed look at what the experts say.

In this case, the experts are people who have already struggled along the Mondial road — coaches Rale Rasic, Rudi Gutendorf, Les Schaefer, Jimmy Rooney and John Kosmina.

What is interesting is their consensus of opinion that World Cup 94 is really not more difficult than the path Australia has had to tread in previous years.

They are also confident the Socceroos can reach and beat the South American obstacle to the finals and that the introduction of home and away matches will benefit Australia.

But there is disagreement on whether to bring back the players based in Europe and whether to use South America or Europe as the training area to mould the eventual Socceroo side.

Rale Rasic, like the other coaches, is outspoken about our chances.

"Home and away is 100% advantage to us rather than the round robin tournaments in which we've played," he said.

"In my era in 1974 we had to pass Iraq, Iran, South Korea, Israel and others to qualify. This current draw isn't more difficult. In fact it's easier than in 1986 when Australia's big hurdle was Scotland.

"I would rate Scotland stronger than Peru or Colombia and Israel harder than Canada or Costa Rica. The teams we may have to meet are not a permanent world force and also don't adjust to travelling as well as the Australians.

"If I was Eddie Thomson, I'd concentrate on Europe for experience and go in the opposite direction to South America. We'll never succeed beating the South Americans at their own game.

"They will learn all about us if we go there too often but if we go to Europe they can't learn as much. We should use Europe as a base for the next two years.

"And I hate to sound negative, but few overseas stars have come home to be match winners in the World Cup. I'm not against good players but against players who are not better than those at home.

"Playing abroad doesn't make them privileged. Spain, Yugoslavia and England prove that. A good family is a good team."

But the world's most travelling coach, Rudi Gutendorf, who has taken China within sight of an Olympic Games finals appearance in Barcelona, has a different attitude.

Gutendorf, whose aggression forced the ASF into strengthening the national Youth team, bowed out of the 1982 campaign at the hands of New Zealand in Sydney.

"European-based players are our biggest asset," he argued.

"When I was coach, there wasn't one player with professional experience in Europe. But we



RUDI GUTENDORF

need to bring them here as early as possible, at least a full week before the games. Without them I don't think we can succeed.

"I also think the previous round robin is better for us than home and away. Irrespective, I believe the Socceroos can win through to the South American leg.

"The gap between third world and the top teams is not as big now and it could even be difficult for Australia to beat China or South Korea.

"I wouldn't mind having a second chance with the Socceroos. It's a challenge but it's easier to work here because the discipline is better.

"The key to qualifying for the finals is mixture of the outstanding Youth players, the NSL and at least three or four from Europe. This time we have a real chance, the best since Rasic."

Les Scheinflug, who took over as national coach after Gutendorf, regards the draw to the US as by far the hardest ever for an Australian team.

"Even back in the earlier years when we had to travel halfway round the world to places like Mozambique, the quality was not the same," he said.

"But we must get our strongest team on the park. In Germany, they call all their Italian-based players back and there's no fuss.

"It's important we get our best, otherwise we're not doing the job properly. We can match Canada or Costa Rica with our top team and the coming tour of South America will give us a better answer on our chances there.

"I'm sure we'll have enough experience with our players to do the job."

Scheinflug was succeeded by Frank Arok after the former Sydney St George coach unexpectedly took Australia to a 1-0 loss and two draws against England in 1983.

Arok is certain the Socceroos can get to the final leg in South America but he has a number of doubts about the advantages of home and away and whether to use our overseas players.

He ruefully admitted that bringing the overseas players back in a hurry for the 1990 qualifying series was probably the biggest mistake he had made.

"It depends on how our preparation can be arranged. They can't arrive here on Wednesday to play on Sunday. That's a joke. All the players I brought back couldn't score a single goal.

"What's important is when we play our games. If it's in the European season we'll have big problems with the overseas players because of constant travelling.

"But having home and away can be tricky. If it had applied in 1990, we would have eliminated New Zealand after the 4-1 win and the same against Israel.

"The Israelis couldn't penetrate Colombia and I think that would have given us the advantage over the South Americans. If we had to repeat the series now against Scotland, we'd win because we've moved forward since 1985."

Arok said the Australian team was never scared and was one of the very resilient and stronger nations in that regard.

He is convinced Australia will win the Oceania matches and Central America, probably Canada, saying if anyone thought those teams were better than Israel, they'd have to be joking.

"South America will be the big match. We need the first game away. If we can get that draw, then I'm confident Australia will win.

"I don't think the draw is too difficult. We can get to the United States finals in 1994," he stated.

But how about some of the players who have been out of the firing line for so long. Schaefer and Rooney are current coaches. Warren also holds coaching accreditation but is more involved in commentary.

Rooney provided the final pass to Jimmy Mackay to score from 30 metres to beat South Korea 1-0 in Hong Kong in November 1973 and qualify for the World Cup finals in Germany.

He also thinks Australia can get to South America where he rates our prospects as good as the home team but his major concern is the lack of games for the Socceroos.

"Rale Rasic showed the way with four years' preparation and so did Arok. They also stuck by



EDDIE THOMSON



Socceroos not the m

UP EASIER!

'World Cup '94 is really not more difficult than the path in previous years'

their players," he said.

"Our biggest player problem is that Australia has become a source for European clubs and a lot of our best will be in Europe. They could find it difficult to get time off.

"Many here and overseas are on the verge of becoming great players. We never had that choice of making a career in Europe or staying with the national team.

"The gap is narrowing rapidly to the top nations. If we're together enough, play plenty of games and everything goes our way, we have a good chance of qualifying."

Defender Schaefer warns we need to be selective on which players to bring back from overseas as some are not as good as those still here.

He said it doesn't matter which path we have to take as they're all hard to get to the World Cup finals.

"We have the right kind of planning with full time national coaches but we need more games against overseas teams. We're on a par with a lot of countries now and we should do well."

John Warren doesn't think the draw is unfair, maybe more difficult than 1974 but certainly not worse than the last three campaigns. He is also an advocate of many more matches for the Socceroos.

"We're two years behind in preparation and would have a good chance if properly prepared. We need a program, which we haven't had in the past. If you want to compete, you must plan," he said.

"Our task is difficult but the guideline is Israel from the last World Cup. The Socceroos need as many games as possible, preferably tournament style and the experience of playing in Central and South America."

Kosmina agrees the Socceroos need South American and tournament experience with good opposition essential.

However, he also says Thomson has to be selective on which players to bring back from Europe.

"Australia is confident at home and travels well and the opposition is as strong as in the last campaign. We're a good chance."

And finally, the thoughts of Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson who has the task of taking Australia to the United States.

He said he knew it was going to be tough and he didn't expect any favours.

"Colombia reached the second phase at the last World Cup and were unlucky not to get further. Paraguay and Peru are also good and I wouldn't write off any of them."

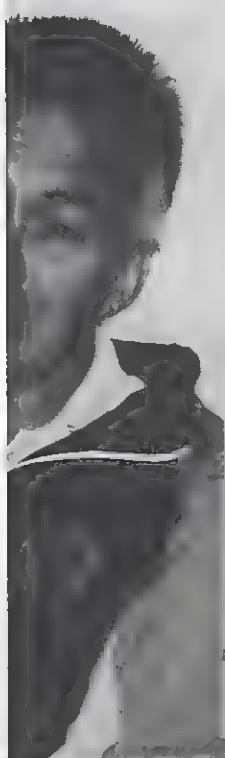
"I'm still hoping to get eight games away in June, six in Central America and two in South America. That will tell us how good we are. I've become very friendly with Uruguay and Chile in recent years. Maybe they'll give us a match."

"Hopefully, I can bring back the overseas players for the tour. I can't get them any other time and they feature high in my plans."

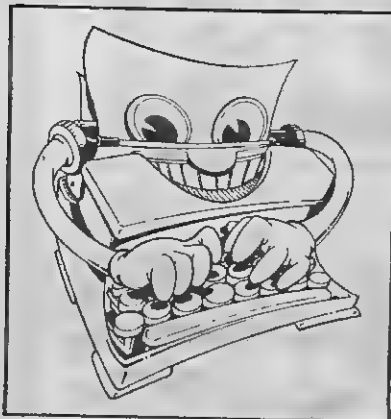
"But right now my thoughts are on Sweden and then New Zealand."

Can we qualify? Australia has the ability, the commitment and is becoming more professional in its standards as the Under 20 and Olympic teams are showing.

Only time will tell whether Thomson will become the second coach to take Australia to the ultimate in international football — the World Cup finals.



in the World Cup sandwich ... according to former national team manager John Kosmina and former coach Frank Arok.



Clarkson a hit in Old Dart!



David Clarkson

AUSTRALIAN David Clarkson showed the same type of initiative that won him a place at Brighton to lead the team to a 5-0 defeat of Crawley in the third round of the FA Cup.

Clarkson, 23, is a self-made professional, having sent Brighton a video of himself in action for Sunshine George Cross.

Brighton manager Barry Lloyd liked what he saw and agreed to give the midfielder a trial which resulted in a one-year contract at the start of this season.

Clarkson had only been used as a replacement until the weekend before last, but took full advantage of his opportunity to start in his first FA Cup match against Crawley.

London's "Today" newspaper said the \$12,500 Brighton had paid Sunshine George Cross for Clarkson's services had been money well spent "judging from the way he demolished Crawley."

The "Daily Express" reported that Crawley had found the "lively Aussie just too hot to handle" and Clarkson had savoured the day he "stole the show".

"It's one I'll never forget," he told the paper.

"It's still all a bit hard to take in, having wanted to play here for so long.

"I'd read so much about the English game and watched it on television and I knew it was the only league I wanted to play in.

"Now it's happening it's unbelievable."

Although Clarkson dominated the game, he left the scoring up to his team-mates with Mark Gail, Clive Walker, Raphael Meade and Ian Chapman finding the net, while Chapman also slotted home a penalty.

Mara no go USA!

DIEGO Maradona may encounter obstacles to any plans of taking up residence in the United States, a US official said.

Maradona, who faces cocaine possession and trafficking charges in Argentina, told the Buenos Aires newspaper La Nacion in an interview published last week he was planning to move with his wife Claudia and infant daughters Dalma and Giannina to Florida in about three months.

Duke Austin, spokesman for the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service, suggested Washington would take a dim view of Maradona's plans if criminal charges were pending against him.

"You can't just take up residence in the United States, you have to qualify for the residency... even if he purchased property doesn't mean he can live here," Austin said.

"The agency that's going to determine whether he would be granted a visa would be the State Department."

State Department policy is to deny visas to aliens convicted of drug trafficking. If criminal drug charges are pending, as in Maradona's case, a visa could still be denied if consular officials have reason to believe the candidate was involved in drug trafficking.

The State Department declined to comment on Maradona's situation.

Maradona was arrested in April at a Buenos Aires flat where police found cocaine and was released a few hours later after paying \$20,000 bail.

He told the newspaper he had admitted before the judge hearing the case that he had used cocaine but denied the possession and trafficking charges.

Before his arrest, the Italian soccer league had banned Maradona from playing for 15 months after his urine sample showed traces of cocaine. The International Football Federation later extended the ban worldwide.

Praise from Wade



Jason van Blerk

SOCCEROO skipper Paul Wade predicts Apia Leichhardt star Jason van Blerk will cut loose for the Soccerroos during this month's three-match series against Sweden.

Wade is lavish in his praise of van Blerk, saying he is one of many impressive changes coach Eddie Thomson is pencilling in for the squad.

"Jason van Blerk has a great left foot and did a brilliant job for us as a substitute in Indonesia 18 months ago," Wade said.

"I hear he has improved a lot since gain-

ing more experience in Belgium.

"He could prove a winner if he gets a run."

Van Blerk gained first team exposure in Belgium with Sankt Truiden a year ago but returned to Sydney to join Apia Leichhardt when he found it difficult to upgrade to leading clubs Lokeren and Royal Antwerp.

His enthusiastic raiding produced a well-earned goal in Apia Leichhardt's 5-2 demolition of South Melbourne last Sunday week.

Wade's concern is that there has been no international action since last June, when the Soccerroos turned

out against England and then played in the prestigious President's Cup in South Korea.

Australia meets Tommy Svensson's Sweden in a three-match tournament, commencing at the Sydney Football Stadium on Australia Day.

The teams then travel to Adelaide for a Hindmarsh Stadium encounter and finish the series at Olympic Park Melbourne on February 2.

Wade added both Swedish clubs Malmo and Goteborg who toured here, "knew how to knock the ball around" and expect big things from the national team.

Kids come good

Having earned the nickname of AGT from local supporters, the Southern District touring squad made up of players mainly from Fairfield and Liverpool have won the hearts of all the teams they have met in Southern California.

With a big schedule ahead for the next few days, including exhibition matches against the California state U/14 side and the National USA U/15 side, Southern Districts U/13 Umbro Youth League team started their US tour of California with a bang, defeating all-comers in winning the prestigious Villa Annual Holiday Cup tournament in San Diego on December 29.

Scoring a total of 28 goals while conceding only two, Southern Districts met little resistance in their quest for the first tournament win in the US for a Sydney Youth League team, in fact for any Australian Youth team.

This win promises to be only one of many highlights of their 16-day tour of Southern California.

The team was treated to a victory dinner by the "Villa" Tournament committee who also were making arrangements for the boys to either go sailing with the San Diego Yacht Club or spending the day in the snow at Laguna Mountain.

The following day, after their match against the national U/15 team, at Fullerton College, they were invited to celebrate the coming of New Year at a party organised in Escondido.

The second week of the team's tour was spent in Los Angeles staying in the Long Beach area, within sight of the Queen Mary.

All the usual tourist attractions — Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, Universal Studios, were on the itinerary, plus a stay in San Luis Obispo (North of LA), where the team billeted with local families for a taste of all-American family life.

ACT confidence booster

ACT Soccer Federation vice-president Con Poulos and executive member David Wright were re-elected at the recent federation annual meeting in what was seen as a vote of confidence in the administration of president, Ron Watkins.

Watkins, half-way through his two-year term, has incurred criticism during the year for his adherence to the Neame report into ACT soccer.

The report recommends the abolition of one and two-team clubs in the lower regions of the ACT League and their incorporation into a small number of 'super clubs'.

Poulos was opposed by Jim Roberts, who had the support of Canberra Croatia, another critic of the ACTSF because of the federation's refusal to support its campaign to place a club in the National League.

Roberts also failed to unseat Wright, backed by Belconnen United, in a three-way contest with Jack Petit of Condors.

All other positions were uncontested. And if clubs thought they could pause for breath after the upheavals of the past 12 months, they were in for a disappointment, with Watkins promising "many plans in the pipeline" for the code.

— GRAHAM COOKE

AROUND THE NATION

Eugene returns to Eagles!

BY WALTER PLESS

HOBART Juventus coach, Eugene Mycak, has resigned and will return to his former club, White Eagle, for the 1992 Tasmanian State League season.

Mycak joined Juventus in 1991 after taking White Eagle to the State League title in 1989 and 1990.

He had explained his decision to join Juventus by saying it was a new challenge, but after coaching the club to second place behind White Eagle in 1991, he declined to take up the option of a second season at the helm of the Italian-backed club.

Mycak has played and coached professionally in his native Poland, and in the United States of America.

He was in the running for the coaching position at West Adelaide Hellas prior to the current NSL season but was unsuccessful.

Mycak, who coached Zaglebie Lubin, last season's Polish champions, to promotion from the third division to the second and took the club to the semi-finals of the Polish Cup, has always had a burning ambition to coach either in the NSL or in one of the interstate state league competitions.

With no offers coming his way (he may be contacted on 002 286 491), it seems as if he may have to resign himself to coaching White Eagle to a third championship, the club's sixth in seven seasons.

Mycak said he had



EUGENE MYCAK

no problems with the Juventus committee during the past season and he was keen to explain the reasons for his departure to those committee members, and to the supporters of the club who had backed him.

"I left Juventus for two reasons," Mycak

said.

"First, I couldn't work under the new conditions the committee wanted to impose, and second, I wouldn't work with some of the players because of their poor attitude.

"Some of the players showed a lack of tactical discipline, they

liked to drink before games, they feigned injury or expressed fears of being injured, and in general, displayed a very bad attitude.

"I'm not looking for excuses, but for those who can't understand why we lost the championship, I'd point to the loss of seven play-

ers this year, four of whom went to Croatia-Glenorchy, and one each to Caledonians and Olympia, while another went overseas.

"We did gain Chris Hey and Carlo Ambrosino, but Carlo was very disappointing, and Brett Harwood was also injured and out of form for much of the season.

"Six games before the end, we lost Romeo Frediani with a broken bone in the foot, and all these factors made things very difficult.

"We also suffered from a lack of co-operation with the reserves, which certainly didn't help, and we were just unable to overcome these obstacles."

Mycak said some supporters and committee members did not understand coaching and the fact that a coach has to work on hundreds of things and that this takes a great deal of time.

"If you're working seriously, it would be a full-time job," Mycak said.

"If you don't get satisfaction from it, and sufficient remuneration, it's not worth neglecting the family for it."

★ ★ ★

The Australian Olympic team will play Tasmania at Glenorchy's KGV Soccer Park on Tuesday, February 4.

The match will be part of the Olympic team's preparations for the Olympic qualifying series.

National coach Eddie Thomson will conduct a coaching clinic for Tasmanian coaches during the team's visit

to Tasmania.

The match will mark the return to Tasmania of Dominic Longo, who learned his soccer in the island state before moving interstate where he plays in the NSL for Newcastle.

Longo has captained Australia at Under-16 level and is now, of course, in the Olympic squad.

The Tasmanian Soccer Federation is considering including some guest NSL players in the Tasmanian team to bolster the strength of Les Bee's team.

★ ★ ★

Phil Kannegiesser is the new coach of Olympia, the Greek-backed club in Tasmania's State League competition.

Kannegiesser has coached Rapid in the past and was Olympia's goalkeeper in 1990.

He injured his shoulder in a pre-season match in 1991 and missed the entire season.

Kannegiesser's brother, Steve, joined Olympia from Juventus for the 1991 season and played a big role in the club's fourth placing.

Mr Peter Ross was recently elected as Olympia's new president. He replaces Mr Dennis Bourakis.

Olympia is believed to be on the verge of signing an Englishman with league experience in England, while former top striker Perry Forster is soon expected to return after several years overseas.

Craig Nicholls was voted the club's best-and-fairest player for 1991.

★ ★ ★

Hobart Juventus goalkeeper Brett Williams will return to Tasma-

nia soon after a spell with England's Notts County.

Williams has been unable to renew his visa. He first went to County late in 1990 and then again in 1991.

County recently loaned him to a non-league club, but his aspirations to make it in the big time were dealt a severe blow by the recent decision relating to his visa and work permit.

The 19-year-old custodian is reported to have received a lucrative offer from Croatia-Glenorchy coach Eamonn Kelly to join his club.

Kelly was coach of Juventus when Williams was at the Italian-sponsored club and accompanied the youngster to England and Notts County in 1990, having recommended him to officials there.

★ ★ ★

Hobart Juventus is the only State League club in Tasmania not to have appointed a coach for the 1992 West Point Hotel Casino State League competition.

The only official candidate is believed to be Dale Itchins, who has an outstanding record at junior and reserve level.

Itchins coached Juventus's under-17 team last season, but the big question is whether the club will be brave enough to give him a crack at the big time.

Itchins is ready to begin pre-season training the minute club president Mr Keith Peters gives him the go-ahead, but time is running out as the committee dithers over the appointment.

★ ★ ★

Sara is a star and is now an All-American

From our man in Canberra
Graham Cooke

CANBERRA goalkeeper Sara King has capped a successful debut on the United States college soccer scene by being named in the All-American team for her year.

The former Stormbirds ACT League

player has earned rave reviews from the staff of her Mount Ida College in Massachusetts, with coach Tom McGuinness describing her as "easily the best goalkeeper in the region, man or woman."

McGuinness, himself a former goalkeeper, said King played an integral part in her

team's success, leading Mount Ida through 11 wins, three draws and a loss — the best season in its history.

"The result has given us a national ranking of seventh for junior colleges," he said. "Sara's outstanding work ethic and decision-making skills, as well as a superb technical level of play, impressed all her opponents... the entire Mount Ida community is proud of her accomplishment."

King, back in Canberra on holiday, said the level of play she encountered was about

on par with the Sydney-based Women's Soccer League. "It was a standard I had experience of, but not on a week-to-week basis," she said.

"It was a bit difficult at first, especially as I had just had an operation on my calf muscle in Australia, but I adjusted well and settled into a permanent place in the first team."

While being an All-American team member does not involve playing games, King has been invited to a special training camp at Pittsburgh, Pennsyl-

vania during which she and other All-Americans will be honoured at a banquet.

"All the best coaches and players in the US will be there. It's from January 16 to 18 so I will have to cut short my holiday to get back to it — but apparently I am the first female athlete from Mount Ida who has made an All-American team so I'm certainly not going to miss it."

She said it was hard to gauge the effect of the US victory in the World Women's Championship late last year. "It happened af-

ter our season had been completed, so the impact hasn't got through to college level yet."

And while there were some great goals scored during the competition, she agreed the standard of striking had not been matched by goalkeeping. "The fact is that there are not many female players who want to become goalkeepers," she said. "And it's not an area that coaches concentrate on."

"I'm just so fortunate my coach is a former goalkeeper and can give me the specialist

training I need.

"Obviously, I've got ambitions now and one of them is to play for Australia at the highest level," she said. "If I graduate in 1993, I can be back for the 1994 season in time to get noticed by the national coach before the next World Championship."

"After that, I may go back to the US for another couple of years' study. The soccer environment there is so stimulating. Even when the season finished a group of us would still go out on the oval and train."

THE TRADITION CONTINUES

MR KARL REUSCH founded his glove factory over half a century ago in the southern part of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Until approximately 20 years ago, dress gloves were manufactured.

Since then a huge variety of sports gloves became more and more important.

Today "Reusch" ski, goalkeeper, motorcycling and cycling gloves are known worldwide.

Also gloves for horse-riding, sailboarding, golf, tennis, shooting, weight-training, sailing, rock-climbing/abseiling, mountaineering and fencing are manufactured.

Special goalkeeper gloves have been in use since the 1960s, when the Yugoslav goalkeeper Peter Radenkovic used them with the Munich club of 1860 in the German Bundesliga and Sepp Maier, the most popular German goalkeeper ever, also turned out in them.

Right from the beginning "Reusch", as a specialist in gloves, was involved.

Today's goalkeeper gloves are a far cry from the leather gloves with ping-pong rubber on the palm used in those days.

A very special pattern is used for the inside hand in order to incorporate the palm finger and thumb in one piece.

The materials used for the inside hand are nowadays all latex-based.

Different additives are used, depending of what degree of grip and wear is expected.

"Reusch" goalkeeper gloves are divided in three categories:

"Super-Softies", "Hard-Wearing" and "Training/Indoor/Hard-Fields".

Grip and wear work against each other, as is the case with a rubber car tyre.

The best compromise possible has been found with the mould injected inside-hands used the "Hard-Wearing" range.

In addition the "Training" gloves have an astonishing grip.

Top goalies all around the world use "Reusch".

Just to name some: Nery Pumpido

(Argentina), Rinal Dassiev (USSR), Giovanni Galli (Italy), Hans van Breukelen (Holland), Andoni Zubizarreta (Spain), Chris Woods (England), Jean Marie Pfaff — (Belgium), Zoran Ivkovic (Yugoslavia) and many more.

NSL keepers like Jeff Oliver, Tony Franken, Clint Gosling, and Warwick Young don't like the idea of being without them at all.

"Reusch" also markets top quality goalkeeper wear, including padded jerseys in different colours and designs, shorts, trousers, as well as other accessories for the goalie.

Since the beginning of 1989, Reusch Australia Pty Ltd in Sydney, managed by Martin Reusch, a son of the founder Karl Reusch, is wholesaling the full range of goalkeeper products in Australia.



Martin Reusch presents Olyroo John Filan with a goalkeeping award.



★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★



Pumpido, Argentina.



Pagliuca, Italy



Immel, Germany



Pfaff, Belgium



Eriksson, Sweden



Leighton, Scotland



Latest overseas results & tables



ENGLAND

Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Sheridan 42nd minute) Leeds 6 (Chapman 8th, 43rd and 88th, Dorling 34th, Whitlow 58th, Wallace 86th). Halftime 1-3.

Attendance 32,228.

STRIKER Lee Chapman scored a hat-trick as Leeds crushed Sheffield Wednesday 6-1 away to reclaim top spot in the English soccer first division on Sunday.

Leeds climbed one point above Manchester United, 1-0 winners at home to Everton on Saturday, with 52 points. Third-placed Liverpool are 11 points adrift of Leeds.

Chapman sidestepped a centre from the right past England goalkeeper Chris Woods eight minutes from the start and headed further goals in the 43rd and 88th minutes.

England left back Tony Dorling scored with a free kick and John Sheridan hit one back for Wednesday after they were awarded a controversial penalty in the first half which ended 3-1 after Chapman headed his

second goal.

Leeds stroked the ball around with growing confidence and Chapman and substitute Mike Whitlow added further headed goals after the break as the Wednesday defence were found wanting in the air.

Nippy forward Rod Wallace scored a deserved first goal four minutes from time after having a hand in most of the previous strikes with his darting runs and pin-point crosses.

Promoted Wednesday, in third place before the weekend's league action but down to fifth after their first home defeat of the season, were lucky to get on the score sheet.

Striker Gordon Watson fell inside the box after an interception by defender Chris Whyte, but Leeds players protested the Wednesday forward had dived.

Leeds' keeper John Lukic saved Sheridan's 36th-minute penalty pinging the ball onto his right hand posts, but the Wednesday midfielder netted the rebound.

Manchester United, who will Leeds on Wednesday for a postponed Football Association (FA) Cup third round tie, have

two league games in hand over the joint favourites for the title.

GREECE

Olympiakos 3 PAOK 2, AEK 2 Serres 1, Aris 2 Xanthi 0, Doxa 1 Ethnikos 1, Corinthos 3 Iraklis 1, OFI 1 Panthikos 1, Panathinaikos 1 Apollon 2, Panathinaikos 3 Larissa 2, Panathinaikos 1 Athinaikos 0.

STANDINGS

Olympiakos	22
Apollon	22
AEK	22
Panathinaikos	20
PAOK	19

PORTUGAL

PORTUGUESE CUP

Setubal 0 Benfica 0, Uniao Lamas 0 Chaves 2, Santa Maria 1 Braga 1, Boavista 3 Uniao Madeira 1, Espinho 2 Gullmaras 0, Belenenses 1 Paços Ferreira 1, Torreense 1 Castelo Branco 0, Penafiel 2 Leça 1, Famacao 7 Torres Novas 0, Gil Vicente 1 Felgueiras 0, Alameda 1 Leixoes 4.

REP OF IRELAND

Athlone Town 1 Drogheda United 1, Cork City 2 Bray Wanderers 0, Dundalk 1 Derry City 1, Galway United 5 Sligo Rovers 1, Shamrock Rovers 1 Shelbourne 2.

STANDINGS

Derry City	31
Shelbourne	31
Dundalk	28
Cork City	25
Bohemians	25
Shamrock R	23

HOLLAND

SVV Dordrecht '90 0 Willem II Tilburg 3, FC Groningen 2 Fortuna Sittard 1, Vitesse Arnhem 5 VVV Venlo 1, FC Volendam 3 Roda JC Kerkrade 2, Feyenoord Rotterdam 3 FC Den Haag 0, RKC Waasland 4 FC Twente 1, De Graafschap Doetinchem 0 FC Utrecht 0, PSV Eindhoven 4 Sparta Rotterdam 1, MVV Maastricht 1 Ajax Amsterdam 4.

SPAIN

Real Mallorca 1 Espanol 0, Real Burgos 0 Real Sociedad 1, Albacete 1 Real Zaragoza 1, Deportivo Coruna 0 Real Oviedo 0, Logrones 1 Athletic Madrid 0, Sporting Gijon 0 Valencia 3, Sevilla 4 Tenerife 1, Athletic Bilbao 3 Cadiz 1, Barcelona 2 Real Valladolid 1.

STANDINGS

Real Madrid	29
Barcelona	24
Athletic M	24
Real Zaragoza	22

BELGIUM

Lierse 1 Ghent 0, Ekeren 2 Charleroi 2, Lokeren 1 Mechelen 4, Club Brugge 0 Standard Liege 0, Alost 0 Antwerp 3, Waregem 2 Genk 2, Anderlecht 6 Kortrijk 0, Beveren 1 Molenbeek 1, FC Liege 2 Cercle Brugge 2.

Anderlecht	29
Mechelen	27
Club Brugge	25

ITALY

Cagliari 1 Juventus 1, Foggia 1 Genoa 0, Internazionale 1 Bari 0, Napoli 1 Fiorentina 0, Parma 2 Ascoli 0, AS Roma 3 Cremonese 0, Sampdoria 1 Lazio 0, Torino 1 Atalanta 1, Verona 0 AC Milan 1.

STANDINGS

AC Milan 27, Juventus 24, Napoli 21, Lazio 18, Parma 18, Internazionale 18, Torino 17, Foggia 17, Atalanta 17, Genoa 17, AS Roma 17, Sampdoria 16, Fiorentina 14, Verona 13, Cagliari 11, Cremonese 8, Bari 7, Ascoli 6.
--

UNBEATEN AC Milan opened a three-point lead in the Italian league with a 1-0 win at Verona while closest rivals Juventus were held to a 1-1 draw at Cagliari.

Third-placed Napoli, 1-0 winners over Fiorentina, are a further three points adrift.

Verona's Andrea Icardi deflected a shot from Carlo Ancelotti past his own goalkeeper in the 31st minute to give a depleted Milan side their win.

Italian midfielder Roberto Baggio put Juventus ahead after 27 minutes at Cagliari but the home side, struggling near the foot of the table, struck back four minutes later through Aldo Fricano.

Napoli recovered from their 5-0 posting at Milan last Sunday with midfielder Massimo Crippa firing the decisive goal against Fiorentina early in the second half.

Verona have proved something of a bogey side for AC Milan in the past, dealing fatal blows to their title hopes both in 1973 and 1990. But there was no upset this time even though Milan were forced to field a weakened side.

The league leaders went into the game without the suspended trio of Alessandro Costacurta, Mauro Tassotti and Demetrio Albertini and with Dutchman Ruud Geul, recovering from flu, held in reserve on the substitutes' bench.

Verona netted early in the second half but the whistle had already gone for offside.

Internazionale, out of form in recent weeks, moved level on points with Lazio after scraping a 1-0 win over lowly Bari.

SOUTH AMERICA with Mario Etchart

Carlos Alberto is ready to turn back clock



Brazilian international goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel.

WHEN Carlos Alberto Parreira says that his team are going to play like Brazilians, you might think he is taking the football manager's habit of stating the obvious to a ridiculous extreme.

After all, Parreira is the new manager of Brazil.

But after the reigns of his predecessors Sebastiao Lazaroni and Paulo Roberto Falcão, both of which were gloomier than a wet afternoon in Sao Paulo, Parreira's declaration comes as a pleasant surprise.

Lazaroni, in charge from 1989 until the end of the 1990 World Cup, and Falcão, his successor who was sacked in August, both attempted to make the Brazil national team play like what they thought was a European side.

The emphasis was on physical strength, winning the ball and defending in depth. Lazaroni's spell was nicknamed the "Dunga era" after he held the hard-tackling Fiorentina midfielder's style to be the example the others should follow.

Results, however, spoke for themselves. Instead of losing but delighting the public, as in the 1982 World Cup, Brazil simply lost.

They were knocked out of the 1990 World Cup in the second

round in one of their worst ever performances and in July last year lost the South American title they had won under Lazaroni in 1989.

Worse, Brazil's second place owed more to fighting spirit than traditional flair.

Parreira says he intends to reverse a trend which really began before Lazaroni took over. Ever since the defensive catastrophes of 1982, there has been an ever-growing current of opinion in Brazil that the country's football should follow the Europeans.

"Brazil have always been admired for technique and skill and we want to start playing this type of football again," Parreira says.

That is not to say that Brazil will repeat their performances of 1970 and 1982 — they do not have any more players in the class of Pele, Zico or Socrates.

But it still promises to be an improvement on Lazaroni, who declared before one World Cup qualifier that he would be happy for Brazil to win "with an offside goal, scored with a handball in the 47th minute of the second half."

Parreira also says he will use home-based players in most games, only turning to the Europeans for official competitions and when he can't find a suitable home-based player for the position in question. He admits this could involve "con-

stant starting over again" because of the rate at which Europe snaps up Brazil's best players.

The first performance under Parreira was promising. Brazil beat a much-weakened Yugoslavia 3-0 — admittedly, the Yugoslavs had just completed an exhausting 24-hour plane and bus journey — using only home-based players including Elivelton and Valdeir.

He insists that Brazilian football still has a lot to offer as long as it is organised properly. One of his first comments on taking over was that more time should be given to the national championship and less to the regional competitions.

This is Parreira's second term in charge of the national team. His first, in 1983, ended when Brazil were knocked out of the South American championship by Uruguay. His record was no disaster and Parreira says he could have carried on had he wanted.

On the other hand, it was not up to the standards demanded by the public and press.

"I felt the climate was not right. Clubs such as Gremio were refusing to release players so I deliberately demanded a 500 per cent increase in my salary to renew my contract, knowing they would not accept."

That first term gave him an idea of how de-

manding the job is. He knows the officials and fans have something in common with the villains in James Bond films, they do not tolerate failure.

"When you take over Brazil, you know you are obliged to win the World Cup," he says.

At 48, married with two children, Parreira describes his new job as "the biggest challenge of my career — of course."

He already has ample experience in coaching national football teams.

He was in charge of Kuwait at the 1982 World Cup and the United Arab Emirates in 1990, has managed Saudi Arabia and, in 1984, won the Brazilian championship with Fluminense.

Most recently he took Bragantino, an unfashionable team from Sao Paulo state, to the final of the Brazilian championship.

It was in 1970 that Parreira, who did not play football professionally, had his first taste of international football as a member of Brazil's coaching staff at the 1970 World Cup.

The manager then was Mario Zagalo, who is now Parreira's adviser, at Parreira's request, forming what the press has dubbed a "super commissao tecnica."

Between them Zagalo and Parreira have taken part in seven World Cups.



Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

■ The Bulgarian clubs have got together to form the country's first professional league, which will manage the country's top clubs, most of whom hope to be fully professional by 1993 when sponsors are expected for every First Division club.

■ River Plate finally lost their unbeaten record in Argentina. But it took a 2-0 win by San Lorenzo in Round 15 to do the trick. The defeat, however, did not prevent River winning Phase One of the Argentine championship.

■ In Czechoslovakia, yet another First Division coach has hit the dust — the fifth to be sacked since the start of the season. Latest victim is Juraj Krauchopf, who got the boot from Dunajska Streda. Vladimir Hrivnak, his assistant, is now in charge.

■ In South American news, Valdez became champions of Ecuador with a 0-0 draw with Nacional in the last league match of the season. Valdez and Barcelona Guayaquil will represent Ecuador in next season's Copa Libertadores.

■ Recently sacked Brazilian coach Roberto Falcão is now employed in Mexico where he manages America, one of the country's top clubs. America drew 2-2 with Morelia in his debut game. America are in 3rd position in the Mexican First Division Group 4, five points behind leaders Atlante.

■ Fourteen players at Torpedo Moscow, which finished third in the Soviet championship, have quit after the club re-instated Valery Ivanov as coach. "We proved we could do without him for two months," the players said in a statement last month. "We don't intend to be humiliated by him again." Ivanov, described as a bully by the players, was reinstated by the club in a shock move.

● Ivan Valenciano has been voted 1991 Player of the Year in Colombia. The young striker from Ciudad Junior Barranquilla scored 30 goals last season. The poll was conducted by a radio station, RCN.

● In Austria, a South American is also that country's Player of the Year — 27-year-old Argentinian striker Nestor Gorosito, who plays for FC Tirol. The former top scorer in the Argentinian First Division collected 24 points to finish ahead of Peter Stoecker (Austria Vienna) and Wolfgang Knaflitz (Admira Vienna). The poll is conducted by Austria's 12 First Division coaches.

● Sporting Cristal are the champions of Peru for the second consecutive season. They beat Universitario des Deportes in a penalty shoot-out, 8-7, after the teams were locked at 1-1 after 120 minutes.

● Goalkeeper Mark Dougherty, who plays for champions San Francisco, has been voted 1991 "Outdoor Player of the Year" in the USA. Dougherty plays in the American Professional Soccer League, the major, but not yet quite national soccer league. There is also a thriving indoor league in the US (the MISL), which attracts crowds than its outdoor rivals.

■ A new team Inker, have won the first "Free Croatia" competition, competed for by 10 clubs in the European autumn. HASK-Gradjanski (ex-Dinamo Zagreb) came second. The Croatian Federation hopes to start a regular autumn-spring competition in 1992/93 if the internal strife there has abated.

BIGGER FIELD FOR EURO-96

FROM Europe comes a strong rumour that the 1996 European Championship will be contested by 16 countries not the traditional eight.

This is to accommodate the plethora of new countries likely to be granted FIFA and UEFA status after the break up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

So chances are that when England — the firm favourites — host the 1996 titles, there will be twice as many teams as in Sweden next June.

However, it will still be much harder to qualify for the Euro-finals than for the World Cup for that continent's national teams.

AC Milan's Maldini (right) and Lazio's Pin in a titanic battle for possession in the acclaimed Italian league last month.

Switzerland's English boss

ENGLISHMAN Roy Hodgson is almost certain to be appointed coach of the Swiss national team over the weekend.

Hodgson, who toured Australia as coach of Malmö of Sweden in 1989, has been in charge of Neuchâtel Xamax for the past two seasons.

European Youth Championship Draws

UEFA, European soccer's governing body, have announced the draw for the 1993 European youth championships.

The under-16 series will be staged in Turkey in April of that year with 16 finalists, including the host nation.

The under-18 championship is set down for England in July, 1993.

Under-16s

Group 1: Finland, Ireland
Group 2: Iceland, Denmark
Group 3: Malta, France
Group 4: Portugal, Albania
Group 5: Cyprus, Greece
Group 6: Bulgaria, Commonwealth Independent States (ex-USSR)
Group 7: Yugoslavia, Romania
Group 8: Norway, Belgium
Group 9: Austria, Northern Ireland
Group 10: Czechoslovakia, Israel
Group 11: Scotland, Italy

Group 12: Luxembourg, Switzerland
Group 13: Wales, Poland, San Marino
Group 14: Germany, Spain, Hungary
Group 15: England, Sweden, Holland

Under-18s

Group 1: Belgium, Iceland
Group 2: Finland, Scotland
Group 3: Malta, France
Group 4: Albania, Spain
Group 5: Austria, Turkey
Group 6: Cyprus, Hungary
Group 7: Norway, Germany
Group 8: Czechoslovakia, Denmark
Group 9: Greece, CIS
Group 10: Wales, Israel, Holland
Group 11: Romania, Ireland, Northern Ireland
Group 12: Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Yugoslavia
Group 13: Portugal, Switzerland, Luxembourg
Group 14: Bulgaria, Italy, Poland



Ruud Gullit (No 10) — now back at his dazzling best, will again be Holland's key player — with Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard — as the Dutch defend their European crown.

A HISTORIC LAST FOR THE USSR!

DYNAMO Moscow striker Igor Kolyvanov was named best Soviet player in 1991 — the last player to win the award.

Last month the Ukrainian Soccer Federation said it would withdraw its six First Division sides from the national league, while

the Soviet Union no longer exists as an entity.

A poll of sports writers placed Kolyvanov — top scorer in the 1991 season with 18 goals — well ahead of Spartak Moscow striker Alexander Mostovoi.

Kolyvanov now plays for Italian First Division Foggia.

Bayern Munich coaching dilemma

BAYERN Munich President Fritz Scherer says there is no question of replacing the club's Danish coach Soren Lerby at the end of the season with a French or Italian import.

Newspaper reports said Bayern, who are near the bottom of the German First Division, want former French national coach Michel Hidalgo or Sampdoria's Yugoslavian coach Vujadin Boskov.

Also among candidates referred to by



SOREN LERBY

manager Uli Hoeness is the Yugoslav Ivica Osim.

"But one of the strong favourites is Michel Hidalgo," one newspaper said.

"There is no question of us hiring a coach from Italy or France because their permits are not recognised by the German federation," said Scherer.

He added that Lerby, who was signed in October after the Bayern slide began, was only permitted because it was considered an emergency case.

Bayern, Bundesliga champions a record 12 times, ended the first half of the German season in 11th place and were knocked out of the UEFA Cup by BK 1903 Copenhagen on a humiliating 6-3 aggregate.

EURO-92 DRAW

ALL eight finalists in the European Football Championship, the second most important football tournament in the world after the World Cup itself, are now known.

Joining the host country team in Sweden next June will be the top teams of each of the seven qualifying groups, namely France, Scotland, the USSR, Yugoslavia, Germany, the Netherlands and England.

These eight meet to contest the European title between June 10 and 26, 1992 in Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmö and Norrköping.

Kick-off

The kick-off takes place at 4pm this Friday, January 17th in the new Svenska Mässan Congress Centre in Gothenburg.

In accordance with the UEFA regulations, two groups will be formed, with Group I composed of teams 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The hosts, Sweden, will be team 1, while the defending Champions, Holland, will be team 5, seeded at the top of Group II.

The remaining six teams will be drawn in the following order and placed into one or other of the two groups; the order in which the teams are drawn is according to a coefficient figure calculated on the basis of the teams' results in the qualifying matches of the 1990 World Cup and of Euro-92:

Yugoslavia	1.750
Germany	1.583
France	1.5625
USSR	1.5



England	1.5
Scotland	1.3125

The teams finishing first and second in each group qualify for the semi-finals, with the top team of Group I playing the second of Group II and vice versa.

The winners of the two semi-finals meet in the Final in Gothenburg on June 26, 1992.

The draw ceremony

Some 300 representatives of the mass media are expected to attend the draw ceremony at 4pm on January 17, which will be broadcast live on Eurovision not only in Sweden but to numerous other countries in Europe.

The draw for the distribution of the teams into the two groups will be carried out by the General Secretary of UEFA, Gerhard Aigner.

A number of other events are planned in connection with the ceremony: a press conference of the Swedish Football Association, a meeting of television network managers on January 18 and, on the same day, a workshop with the official sponsors of ISL.

BIG YEAR LOOMING

THIS is a big year — again — for football, what with Euro-92 and the Olympics, not to mention the African Nations' Cup.

The events of 1992 are:

- 12-26.1 Senegal: African Nations' Cup
- 1.3 Start preliminary competition 1994 FIFA World Cup
- 21.5 Barcelona: Draw for final competition of Olympic Football Tournament
- 30.5 Wales: 106th Annual General Meeting of the International FA Board
- 10-26.6 Sweden: European Championship
- 29/30.6 Zurich: meetings of the standing committees
- 1.7 Zurich: Executive Committee meeting
- 2.7 Zurich: Executive Committee meeting to decide host of the 1988 FIFA World Cup
- 23.7 Zurich: 48th FIFA Ordinary Congress
- 24.7-9.8 Barcelona (Spain): Football Tournament of the Olympic Games
- 15-29.11 Hong Kong: FIFA Five-a-Side (Indoor) Football World Championship

Congresses

- 10.1 CAF, Dakar, Senegal
- 29.1 CONMEBOL, Asunción, Paraguay
- 23.5 CONCACAF, Vancouver, Canada
- 12.6 AFC, Hong Kong
- 25.6 UEFA, Gothenburg, Sweden OFC (date open)
- 2/3.7 FIFA, Zurich, Switzerland



Aussie Lou Hristodoulou of Panathinaikos (right) in action with Attilio Lombardi of Sampdoria when their teams drew 0-0 in a recent European Champions' Cup tie in Athens.

TURKS PLAN REVAMP

TWO years ago, Turkish football began restructuring in all sectors and particularly in the areas of organisation and coaches' instruction, forming a new

cadre and introducing a diploma programme, as well as doing lots of basic work for the training of young, talented players.

A busy international fixture-list with four age categories has been worked out for them in order to provide experienced players for the future.



Torino's Brazilian striker Walter Casagrande menaces AEK Athens keeper Minou in the course of the Italians' recent 2-0 win in the UEFA Cup.

EURO-92 LOOKS WIDE OPEN

BY ROBERT MILLWARD OF AAP

It was the last team to qualify, but World Cup holder Germany is the early favourite to win next the 1992 European Championship in Sweden.

Despite the claims of defending champion Holland and a French team that won all eight qualifying games to reach the eight-team finals, Germany is the 11-4 favourite with British bookmakers Ladbrokes.

France is the second choice at 4-1, Holland England and the Soviet Union are next at 6-1, host Sweden and Yugoslavia at 7-1 and outsider Scotland is 20-1.

Italy and Denmark have been put on standby in case the Soviets and Yugoslavs withdraw or disintegrate because of the changing political situation in their countries.

Although their teams have qualified, the Soviet Union ceased to exist on January 3 when the central government was replaced by the Confede-

ration of Independent States (CIS), while Yugoslavia's situation is less clear.

Uncertain

Possible recognition of the republics of Slovenia and Croatia as independent states by the European Community makes Yugoslavia's future uncertain.

If both or either withdraw, Italy and Denmark would replace them by finishing second in their respective qualifying groups.

Under new manager Berti Vogts, Germany appears at least as strong as when it won the World Cup last year guided by Franz Beckenbauer.

Nine of its regular starters play in the Italian First Division: Lothar Matthaus, Andreas Brehme and Jurgen Klinsmann with Inter Milan; Jurgen Kohler and Stefan Reuter with Juventus; Thomas Doll and Karl-Heinz Riedle with Lazio; Thomas Hassler and Rudi Voller with AS Roma.

France failed to qualify for the last World Cup, but has reached the European Championship in impressive style.

Under coach Michel Platini, France's star player when it won the European title in 1984, it beat 1990 World Cup finalists Czechoslovakia and Spain in qualifying with a 20-6 goal differential in eight games.

Jean-Pierre Papin, who led Marseille to the Champions' Cup final against Red Star last season, is aided in the French attack by veteran midfielder Luis Fernandez while sweeper Laurent Blanc anchors the defence.

Yugoslavia may be in several pieces by the time the finals arrive but its national team will be based on the powerful Red Star Belgrade lineup or players who have left to play abroad.

Along with stylish midfielder, Robert Prosinecki, who left Red Star at the end of last season for Real Madrid, national team coach Ivica Osim still will have plenty of talent to call on despite the civil strife at home.

Meanwhile, the Dutch have been inconsistent.

Healthy

They qualified comfortably with a 6-1-1 record and a healthy goal differential of 17-2, but the players are renowned for bicker-

ing with each other and falling out with the coaches.

Rinus Michels, who guided the team to its 1988 success in Germany, is back in charge again and has new talent, such as Ajax striker Dennis Bergkamp, to complement regulars Marco van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Ronald Koeman.

World Cup semi-finalist England has replaced Bobby Robson as manager with Graham Taylor, who has introduced several new players as well as tactical changes.

With midfielder Paul Gascoigne sidelined for virtually the entire season with a knee injury, Taylor has brought in less inventive players, such as Geoff Thomas and David Batty, to give the midfield a more solid look.

Gary Lineker, whose late game-tying goal against Poland clinched England's place in the finals, is likely to play his last game for his country in Sweden.

Next year he is scheduled to play in Japan.

The Soviet team is likely to include several players from Dynamo Kiev, a city in the CIS' founding republic of Ukraine.

The Soviets, which qualified out of the group with Italy, also

can call on several of its foreign-based stars such as Andrei Kanchelskis, who plays for English League leader Manchester United; Oleg Kuznetsov and Alexei Mikhailichenko with Scottish champion Glasgow Rangers and Sergi Yuran of Portuguese giants Benfica.

Benefit

Sweden will benefit from home advantage but seems to have made little improvement since a disappointing World Cup where it lost all three first-round games.

Winger Anders Limpar has played erratically for English champion Arsenal and much will depend on the form of striker Thomas Brodin, 22.

Outsider Scotland makes its first appearance in the finals and has a habit of playing better as an underdog.

Veteran midfielder Gordon Strachan is having a standout season with English club Leeds but the Scots still have goalscoring problems.

Manager Andy Roxburgh can call on Tottenham's Gordon Durie, Manchester United's Brian McClair, Everton's Mo Johnston or Glasgow Rangers Ally McCoist.

CLARIFICATION

UEFA has issued the following communiqué in response to the many references in the media to the situation in the USSR and Yugoslavia:

The Football Associations of the USSR and Yugoslavia are official member associations of UEFA which have qualified for the finals in Sweden.

Thus they are confirmed as participants in the finals.

However, should unforeseen events occur, Art. VII (Refusal to play and similar cases) of the UEFA Regulations of the European Champions shall apply, which reads:

"If a National Association refuses to play before the Final Tournament or prior to the Semi-Finals and the Final Tie respectively, the Committee of the European Championship shall have the power to decide upon its possible replacement."

"In selecting the substitute National Association, the Committee of the European Football Champion-

ship shall consider the results obtained by eliminated National Associations.

"No appeals shall be possible against such decision."

And Article 30 of the same Regulations states: "The Committee of the European Championship or the Control and Disciplinary Committee shall make final decisions on all matters not provided for in these Regulations and in cases of force majeure."

The bureau of the European Championship Committee decided on December 17 1991, to submit the following request to the plenary committee: "Should Yugoslavia or the USSR not be able to play in the final tournament, the team placed second in the respective qualifying groups shall be qualified to replace them."



EDITED BY TOM ANDERSON

MY CHELSEA AGONY

By **TOM BOYD**

SCOTTISH Cup Final hero Tom Boyd last week revealed how his dream move to Chelsea almost turned sour.

Just months after signing a five-year contract, the £800,000 Scotland full-back was forced to ask if he still figured in Chelsea's plans.

And the player who's been dropped three times this season rounded off a tough first year in the English First Division by getting sent off against Luton a fortnight ago.

But the former Motherwell skipper insists he's now ready to face the challenge of keeping his place in Andy Roxburgh's European Championship squad.

First

"I feel as though I'm only settling in at Chelsea now," says the 26-year-old.

"The first few months were very hard. I got married last summer and wife Rhona and I were away from home for the first time.

"As strangers in London, we found the people weren't as friendly as we'd been used to in Scotland.

"I was really glad I had her with me, because I'd have been very unhappy if I'd just been going back to an empty hotel room after training every day.

"At least we had each other to talk to and go out with. You might say I became a strong advocate of marriage right from the start!

"Of course I felt under a lot of pressure to do well at the club.

"We had a few new players and I think we all felt as though we were living under the microscope."

"I knew I wanted to

So tough but I'm ready for Scotland Europe bid now

create a good impression — both with the management and my new team-mates.

"The result was that I made mistakes because I was trying too hard.

"I was playing in the same position as I was at Motherwell, on the left side of defence, but the first thing I noticed was that I didn't get as much of the ball.

Quality

"Because so much of Motherwell's play went through Davie Cooper, I was constantly involved.

"But at Chelsea I was making runs left, right and centre and never seeing the ball.

"And in defence, it seemed that every mistake was penalised.

"In Scotland, you could get away with one or two.

"But the quality of player in the First Division meant that any slip-up seemed to cost us dear."

Boyd's erratic form led to him being dropped for the matches against Southampton in November and Oldham and Notts County last month.

And that led to a visit to boss Ian Porterfield's office.

Tom says: "I'd been signed on a five-year contract by Bobby Campbell, but within



DAVIE COOPER

weeks of my arrival Ian Porterfield took over.

"When that happens you always wonder whether your face fits, so when I was left out of the team I went in to see him.

Good

"At the time, there had been a few stories about us being ready to move for a goalkeeper and Celtic's Pat Bonner and Aberdeen's Theo Snelders were among the names mentioned.

"Because they were in the Premier League, there were suggestions I might be used as part of the deal.

"But the manager assured me I was part of his plans, which was good enough for me.

"Although I was sent off last week, I

'I wanted to create a good impression but I ended up making mistakes because I was trying too hard'

— TOM BOYD

feel a lot better about what 1992 holds.

"We've moved into a rented house in a lovely Buckinghamshire village called Chalfont St Peter but we'll take our time before buying anywhere.

"On the park, I'm beginning to feel a bit more relaxed — which is when I play best.

"Paul Elliott has been outstanding in the centre of defence and Steve Clark is playing well alongside him."

Win

Boyd laughs off any suggestion that he

might be regretting his move south.

"I've no regrets at all," he insists. "Although I spoke to Nottingham Forest before I left Motherwell, they wanted me to sign to play in last season's FA Cup semi-final.

"I wanted to stay and play in the Scottish Cup Final because I honestly felt the 'Well' could win it.

"I like to think I was proved right — because Forest lost at Wembley and Motherwell won at Hampden!

"Of course, if Chelsea



PAT BONNER

sea were to decide I wasn't in the plans I'd certainly consider a move back to Scotland — but at the moment I'm still enjoying the novelty of playing in a totally new environment.

"In the Premier League, it always felt that no sooner had you played a team than you were playing them again. It got very monotonous.

Hope

"But here I'm visiting new places every two weeks — and I've made a point of keeping match programmes from every away game I play to keep track of them."

Boyd made his international debut in Scotland's European Championship match against Romania in September 1990. Having

played in five of the qualifying ties he's determined to stake his claim for a place in Sweden. "I don't think coming down here will affect my international chances," he says.

"Andy Roxburgh and Craig Brown are so thorough that they must be keeping tabs on my performances."

"I played in Switzerland and Romania this season and withdrew from the San Marino tie only because of tonsillitis so I hope to be involved when the pre-Finals build up starts next month."

If he shows the same single-mindedness which took him from YTS trainee to Motherwell skipper in just four years, Chelsea and Scotland, should enjoy a profitable 1992.



DIV 2 BOTTOM

	P	W	F	A	Pts
SUNDERLAND	26	9	35	37	32
Walsford	25	9	29	28	31
Port Vale	27	7	27	34	31
Barnsley	27	6	29	37	30
Plymouth	24	8	25	36	23
NEWCASTLE	27	6	36	48	28
Bristol R	28	6	33	43	27
Gillingham	24	7	28	39	27
Brighton	27	6	33	44	25
Oxford	24	6	32	41	21



I BLAME

THINK of Newcastle and you conjure up visions of a magical Hall of Fame — from Milburn to Macdonald, Keegan to Beardsley, Gascoigne and Waddle.

Dream of Sunderland's finest and great names arise like Shackleton and Clough.

But it's all gone disastrously wrong for the area known as the hotbed of English soccer.

Bob Stokoe, an FA Cup winner with both clubs, is sensationally outspoken about their dramatic plunge.

With Newcastle fighting to avoid relegation to the Third Division and fellow strugglers Sunderland once again managerless, Stokoe insists that:

• Oddie Ardiles is NOT the man to boss Newcastle.

• Denis Smith got what he DESERVED at Sunderland.

That's the blunt New Year message from Stokoe, for 40 years one of the North East's great characters.

It's a far cry from Newcastle's FA Cup glory days of the 1950s and times when neighbours Sunderland were known as the team of all talents and the Bank of England club.

Stokoe is as forthright as ever on the soccer depression hanging over Tyneside and Wearside.

Accused

He admits he despairs for an area he loves and insists that Newcastle boss Ardiles and former Sunderland manager Smith have to take much of the flak for the clubs' current crisis.

Ardiles is Britain's favourite Argentinian — a delightful player for his country and for Tottenham.

He also cut his managerial teeth with promise and style at Swindon.

But Georgie Stokoe says: "How can an Argentinian manage Newcastle? How can he relate to the shipyard workers and miners of Tyneside?"

"I won't hide my feelings, even though I

might get accused of living in the past.

"When I was a player at St James's Park in the 1950s, you had to wait until you were 21 or 22 to get into the team.

"There was a queue of good players in front of the youngsters.

"But Oddie has made it too easy to get into Newcastle's team. He's got rid of that queue.

"He's bombed out the experienced players and is relying on kids who aren't ready.

"I'm not running down the lads. When Jim Smith was Newcastle boss, he invited me to help out with the kids on a part-time basis.

"I worked with the Makels, Watsons, Neilsons and Applebys who are now first team players. But they're not ready yet.

"Oddie is using these lads in his diamond formation. But sticking to a certain formation you believe in doesn't guarantee success.

"League positions don't lie and he has to answer for Newcastle's."

Stokoe, centre-half in United's 1955 FA Cup-winning side against Manchester City, adds: "Newcastle have just changed their chairman again and the ball is now in Sir

Says BOB STOKOE

A NORTH EAST HERO FOR 40 YEARS

John Hall's court.

Chance

"He's got his chance to get Newcastle right.

"They're £5 million in debt and they have models in the St James's Park foyer of how the ground will look when all the redevelopment work is completed.

"But how do you get the team right in this situation?"

"That is what John Hall has to do."

Newcastle, who crashed 4-0 at Southend on New Year's Day, are in danger of being relegated to the Third Division for the first time in their history — and in their centenary year too!

Hall, the man behind Ardiles' appointment last season, has publicly backed his manager.

However, if he attempts to interfere with Ardiles' areas of control, the feeling on Tyneside is that the former World Cup winner will walk out on United.

Smith walked away from the manager's job at Sunderland two weeks ago — after agreeing to resign.

There were no co-

FACT FILE

BOB STOKOE was born in Mickley, Northumberland, 61 years ago. He was an FA Cup winner with Newcastle before embarking on a managerial career at Bury.

He became Sunderland boss in 1972 and his four-year reign established him as the club's most successful post-war manager.

He also managed Bury (twice), Charlton, Rochdale (twice), Carlisle (three times) and Blackpool (twice).

codile tears from Stokoe, who twice managed Sunderland and also worked for the club as a scout and a consultant.

His greatest moment was the 1973 FA Cup triumph over mighty Leeds, when Sunderland were in the Second Division — their station now after relegation last season.

Stokoe, now Chelsea's North West scout, who also helps out at one of his former clubs, Bury, says of Smith: "I've never been fond of arrogant people

"When I was at Sun-



OSSIE ARDILES

derland at the time of his arrival, I had the title of consultant.

"In reality, I was more like a glorified barman, although I did help youth development officer Jim Morrow with the kids.

"But Denis kept me right out of everything. I was never even invited into his office for a cup of tea.

Freeze

"In that respect I found his behaviour unbelievable and unacceptable.

"Now, he's got his comeuppance. I'm not sorry about what's

happened to him.

"I have a great feeling for the club, but Sunderland have lost their way. Chairman Bob Murray and Denis had a great opportunity to establish the club in the new Premier League.

"They were in the First Division last season, but couldn't stay there and should have been in the promotion frame this time.

"The chairman used to say he had one of the top five managers in the country in Denis. I hope he has an answer for that now.

"Denis made a similar mistake to the one I made at Roker 16 years ago. He let Viv Busby go in the way I let my right-hand man Arthur Cox leave.

"We both got it wrong. We still went up that season as Second Division champions.

"But I resigned after nine games because I knew the squad wasn't good enough.

"And I wanted to give someone else the chance to do the job.

"I held up my hands, but Denis held on. He should have

LENNIE'S LIONS

Now Boro are new top cats

MIDDLESBROUGH, often poor relations of the North East, are providing a ray of hope in all the gloom.

Although they've never won a major domestic trophy and their best-ever League position was third — way back in 1914 — they are now top dogs of the area.

Boro can boast a 100 per cent success rate in three North

East derbies this season and are gunning for Premier League status next season.

Now boss Lennie Lawrence has also led Boro to the brink of cup glory.

If they dispose of Third Division Peterborough this week, they'll be in the Rumbelows Cup semi-final for the first time since 1976.

One top of that, Lawrence is showing a profit from his transfer dealings.



DIV 2 TOP

	P	W	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	24	13	35	22	44
Ipswich	26	12	39	30	44
Southend	26	12	39	30	43
MIDDOLESBROUGH	25	12	33	25	42
Cardiff City	24	11	37	27	41
Leeds	25	12	32	29	41
Sheff Wed	24	18	44	29	38



JOHN ALDRIDGE

Prof

AS a season ticket holder at second division Tranmere Rovers, Tom Reilly cheers John Aldridge's goals and Eric Nixon's saves when he watches his favourite English soccer team in action.

When he goes down the road to watch the stars of Liverpool, he is more interested in why Ian Rush missed an easy scoring chance and how John Barnes' knees have stood up to twists and turns on a slippery field.

For Reilly is actually Professor Tom Reilly of Liverpool Polytechnic, which has a course on how science can help soccer.

Using scientific data and computer analysis, Reilly says the course can help prevent injury, hone players into better physical shape and help coaches make a more accu-

OSSIE!

How can an Argy boss Newcastle?

... AND SMITH'S JUST A ROKER WRONG-UN

gone much earlier."

Stokoe claims his chances of re-establishing Sunderland as a force were scuppered by the Government pay freeze of the early 1970s.

"Sunderland were at a low ebb when I took over in 1972," says Stokoe.

"But we got it right for a while and might have done even better but for the pay freeze. We couldn't reward players the way we wanted to and it cost us Dennis Tueart who moved to Manchester City."

Now, Stokoe can see Newcastle and Sunderland being frozen out when the Premier League gets underway.

Goals

He says: "The mind boggles when you see how far they have both fallen behind other clubs."

"How do they catch up with a club like Manchester United?"

"Middlesbrough have got a chance."

Manager Lennie Lawrence has come in from Charlton and done quite well — mainly at home.

"But Middlesbrough never meant much to me, except that I made my debut there in the First Division in 1950."

"It was always the black and white of Newcastle or the red and white of Sunderland where I came from."

"But took at Middlesbrough. They lost their First Division place in 1954."

"And it was 20 years before Jackie Charlton brought them back."

"Even all Mr Clough's goals for them couldn't get them into the First Division."

"Now, they are back in Division Two trying to get out."

"I'm afraid I can't paint a happy picture of the North East."

Sadly for the fanatical support still generated there, that has been the case too often in the last 30 years.



ALL-TIME NEWCASTLE GREAT KEVIN KEEGAN

IT'S NOT END



STORMIN' Nor-
man McWhirter
starts the New
Year with a defiant
message: "I'm not
finished yet."

The Scotland Under-21 defender, out since August with an ankle ligament injury, is still smarting at being asked by St Mirren fans if his career was over.

But their concern is hardly surprising — this is the **FOURTH** season in a row he's been laid low by a serious knock. "I can't believe my luck," groans the jinxed Saint. "I'm only 22 and I've already had enough injuries to last a career."

Norrie's problems started when he broke his leg in a reserve game against Aberdeen in October 1988.

He says: "That kept me out for almost a year. I wasn't long back when I got injured against Hibs in January 1990. A cartilage op put me out for another six weeks."

"Then I needed another op on the same knee last summer and didn't play until October."

"With a new manager in charge this season, I really wanted to prove myself. But I lasted only four games."

Rumours

"I got kicked against Falkirk. I thought it was a minor knock but every time I tried to play my ankle wouldn't stand it."

"In November, I was sent to a specialist and he found I'd snapped the medial ligament."

By that time, however, rumours were spreading that Norrie was finished.

"I'm delighted to say they're rubbish," he says. "The operation was successful, I've been back in light training for a couple of weeks and I'm almost ready for a reserve game."

"I played once for the Under-21s last season on their way to the European finals."

"I'm eligible for the competition until it finishes — so my ambition is to be back for St Mirren before the quarter-final against Germany in March."

who tends stars!

rate selection from the hundreds of youngsters who want to be soccer stars.

"I suppose you could call it scientific scouting," Reilly told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"I think it is the only one in the world because we received inquiries from all over after we sent details of our course to the International Olympic Committee," he said.

"We got calls from as far afield as Japan, Tanzania and Australia."

Reilly said the course does not go out to design the super-player.

"This is an academic institution and we are not in the soccer business," he said. "But coaches, clubs and players have benefited from our work."

By collecting data from training sessions,

Reilly's team can assess how accurately a player can shoot or pass and how well he can dribble past opponents.

"A coach can't keep all this stored in his head and he doesn't have time to make this sort of detailed analysis," Reilly said.

"A coach also can forget what happened in a game or a training match. But we can retrace the build-up to a goal by video or computer and he can see patterns develop."

Similarly, Reilly's team can see how injuries are picked up and how they can be avoided.

"Common injuries affecting the quadriceps and hamstrings are caused by an imbalance in the leg muscles. There is an emphasis to make the legs stronger using press machines but that often involves one side of the leg

becoming stronger than the other and that leads to injury."

"We have a controlled program that allows the weaker side of the leg to catch up."

"Computer-driven equipment also helps us identify weak points in the legs. A knee or ankle joint may be vulnerable in a particular spot and we find scientific ways to stabilize it."

Reilly concedes that players are born with ability and science cannot create it. But it can evaluate how well a player uses it, he says.

"Diego Maradona has an abnormal running action and uses it to great advantage because, when he has the ball, it is very difficult to get it off him," Reilly said. "He proved that with the two goals he scored in the 1986 World Cup against England and Belgium."

This week's fixture list

**FRIDAY
JANUARY 17**

Second Division
Tranmere v Brighton
Fourth Division
Aldershot v Barnet

**SATURDAY
JANUARY 18**

First Division
Aston Villa v Sheff Wed
Everton v Forest
Leeds v Palace
Luton v West Ham
Man City v Coventry
Notts Co v Man United
Oldham v Liverpool
QPR v Arsenal
Sheff Utd v Norwich
Tottenham v Southmptn
Wimbledon v Chelsea
Second Division
Barnsley v Plymouth
Bristol C v Southend
Cambridge U v Grimsby
Derby v Sunderland
Ipswich v Bristol R
Leicester v Swindon
Millwall v Middlesbro
Newcastle v Charlton



Kenny Dalglish



Ally McCoist

Oxford v Port Vale
Portsmouth v Blackburn
Wolves v Watford
Third Division
Bolton v Hartlepool
Bournemouth v Wigan
Bromford C v Hull City
Chester v Brentford
Fulham v Shrewsbury

Huddersfield v Peterboro
Leyton O v West Brom
Preston v Exeter
Stockport v Darlington
Stoke v Reading
Swansea v Birmingham
Torquay v Bury
Fourth Division
Burnley v Gillingham

Chesterfield v Doncaster
Halifax v Scunthorpe
Hereford v Blackpool
Lincoln v Wrexham
Maidstone v Northmptn
Rochdale v Crewe
Rotherham v Mansfield
Walsall v Cardiff
York City v Carlisle

Scottish Premier
Aldie v Hearts
Dundee Utd v St Mirren
Dunfermline v Celtic
Falkirk v Aberdeen
Hibernian v St Johnstone
Rangers v Motherwell

Scottish First
Clydebank v Raith
Forfar v Dundee
Kilmarnock v Hamilton
Meadowbank v Partick
Montrose v Ayr Utd
Morton v Stirling A

Scottish Second
Alloa v Arbroath
Bewick v Cowdenbeath
Brechin v Albion R
Clyde v Stranraer
East Fife v Dumbarton
Queen of St v Q Park
Stenhousemuir v East
Stirling

ENGLISH First Division
struggler West Ham has put all its players on the transfer list in an attempt to raise money for a spending spree.

Manager Billy Bonds realises that he must bring in new blood if the London club is to avoid relegation in the most critical season in English soccer history.

"I don't want to sell my best players, but I'm in a position now where I've got to listen to offers for anyone here," said Bonds. "I've been looking to bring in new players for the last month, but I can't do that unless I sell someone first."

The first to go could be England B winger Stuart Slater, who was the subject of an un-

successful offer of Stg2 million (\$A4.96 million) from Scottish giant Celtic at the start of the season.

The 22-year-old has indicated that he would welcome a move by turning down the biggest contract the Hammers have ever offered.

Celtic, managed by Slater's former agent Liam Brady, is the favourite to land him, but Everton is also interested and can offer Scotland winger Pat Nevin, for whom the Hammers recently had a Stg300,000 (\$A744,240) bid rejected, in part exchange.

Striker Trevor Morley is expected to leave shortly, possibly in part-exchange with Mark Draper, Notts County's out-of-favour England under-21 midfielder player, who Bonds has been chasing.

★ Former England coach Don Howe returned to management when he was appointed boss of First Division soccer club Coventry.

Howe, Bobby Robson's right-hand man when England reached the World Cup semi-finals in 1990, replaces Terry Butcher, who was sacked last week after a row over his contract.

Howe, who has managed West Bromwich Albion, Arsenal and Queen's Park Rangers, has enjoyed most of his success as a coach.

★ Swedish soccer international Anders Limpar has suffered a setback in his bid to recover from a broken jaw.

The 26-year-old Arsenal winger has been told he will be out for a further two weeks because of complications to the injury.

ALL THE RESULTS FROM BRITAIN

ENGLISH

Arsenal 2 Aston Villa 0 Attendance 37,413
Chelsea 2 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Tottenham 2 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Coventry 2 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Queens Park Rangers 2 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Crystal Palace 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Derby 2 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Ipswich 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Leicester 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Millwall 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Newcastle 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Sheff Utd 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
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Sunderland 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Swindon 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Tranmere 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Walsall 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Wolves 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Wrexham 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)

DIVISION TWO

Blackburn 4 Bristol City 0
Birmingham 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Bolton 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Bournemouth 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Brentford 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Bristol R 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Bury 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Cambridge U 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
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Leyton O 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Luton 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Mansfield 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Middlesbrough 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
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Walsall 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Wolves 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Wrexham 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)

DIVISION THREE

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Bournemouth 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Brentford 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Bristol R 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
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Tranmere 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Walsall 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Wolves 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Wrexham 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)

READING

Reading 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Barnet 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Blackpool 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Birmingham 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Bolton 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Bournemouth 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
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Tranmere 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Walsall 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Wolves 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Wrexham 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)

DIVISION FOUR

Barnet 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Blackpool 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Birmingham 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Bolton 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Bournemouth 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Brentford 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Bristol R 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
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Tottenham 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Tranmere 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Walsall 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Wolves 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Wrexham 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)



SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Dundee 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Hamilton 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Kilmarnock 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Partick 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Raith 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Ayr 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Morton 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Stirling 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Clydebank 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Meowbank 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Montrose 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Forfar 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Hamilton 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Kilmarnock 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Partick 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Raith 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Stirling 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Dundee 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Alloa 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Arbroath 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Dumfries 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
East Fife 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
East Stirling 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Queen of St 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Stirling 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)
Stirling Albion 1 (Aldie 12th round, Wals 70th)

Leading goalscorers in British League and Cup soccer after matches on Saturday

English Division One
23 - Gary Lineker (Tottenham)
18 - Ian Wright (Arsenal)
17 - Dean Saunders (Liverpool)
16 - Brian McClair (Manchester Utd)
15 - Alan Shearer (Sheff Wed)
English Division Two
26 - John Aldridge (Tranmere)
24 - Duncan Shearer (Swindon)
18 - Brett Angel (Southend)
15 - Dion Dublin (Cambridge)
14 - Paul Wilkinson (Middlesbrough)
13 - Steve White (Swindon)
Scottish Premier Division
23 - Ally McCoist (Rangers)
18 - Charlie Nicholas (Celtic)
16 - Scott Graham (Hearts)
14 - Keith Wright (Hibernian)
Mark Hateley (Rangers)
13 - Tommy Coyne (Celtic)

ALL YOUR TABLES FROM ENGLAND

ENGLISH 1ST DIV

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	25	15	10	0	48	20	52
Manchester United	23	15	6	2	44	18	51
Liverpool	24	10	11	3	29	20	41
Manchester City	23	11	12	6	37	24	40
Sheff Wed	24	11	4	9	34	29	37
Aston Villa	23	9	7	7	29	24	34
Arsenal	23	9	7	7	29	24	34
Crystal Palace	23	9	7	7	29	24	34
Everton	23	9	7	7	29	24	34
Tottenham	23	10	3	10	34	31	33
Nottingham Forest	24	9	5	10	38	35	32
Chelsea	25	8	8	9	33	32	31
Queens Park Rangers	25	7	9	8	30	33	30
Norwich	24	8	6	10	39	43	30
Oldham	24	8	6	10	39	43	30
Coventry	24	8	6	10	39	43	30
Wimbledon	24	6	5	12	27	38	27
Notts County	24	6	5	12	27	38	27
Sheff Utd	24	6	5	12	27	38	27
Luton	24	4	9	11	23	38	21
West Ham	24	4	7	13	23	41	19
Southampton	24	4	7	13	23	41	19

ENGLISH 2ND DIV

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	25	14	6	5	39	22	47
Southend	27	13	7	7	40	30	46
Middlesbrough	26	12	8	6	34	25	45
Cambridge	26	12	8	6	34	25	45
Ipswich	27	12	8	6	34	25	45
Portsmouth	25	12	8	6	34	25	45
Leicester	26	10	9	6	44	31	39
Swindon	25	10	9	6	44	31	39
Derby	25	10	9	6	44	31	39
Charlton	25	10	7	8	30	28	37
Sunderland	27	10	7	8	30	28	37
Wolverhampton	25	9	6	10	32	31	33
Millwall	26	9	6	11	40	45	33
Bristol City	26	8	9	9	30	38	33
Watford	25	7	11	5	25	25	32
Port Vale	27	10	11	7	34	43	30
Bristol Rovers	27	7	6	14	30	40	30
Barnsley	25	8	6	11	29	39	30
Grimsby	25	8	5	12	27	38	29
Plymouth	28	6	11	11	38	50	29
Newcastle	28	7	7	14	35	45	28
Brighton	28	7	7	14	35	45	28
Oxford	26	6	4	16	34	44	22

ENGLISH 3RD DIV

Wentworth	25	13	7	5	39	22	47
West Bromwich	25	13	7	5	39	22	47
Birmingham	25	12	8	6	34	25	45
Huddersfield	24	12	8	6	34	25	45
Stockport	25	10	10	8	28	26	40
Stoke	24	10	10	8	28	26	40
Hartlepool	24	10	6	8	34	31	36
Bolton	23	9	8	8	33	29	35
Leyton Orient	23	9	8	8	33	29	35
Shrewsbury	24	9	8	9	29	32	33
Peterborough	24	8	9	9	29	32	33
Bournemouth	24	8	9	9	29	32	33
Reading	23	8	8	9	29	32	33
Exeter	24	8	9	7	25	25	30
Fulham	24	8	9	7	25	25	30
Preston	24	8	7	10	29	36	29
Torquay	24	7	7	10	31	34	28
Hull	25	6	3	14	22	36	27
Swansea	24	7	5	12	27	36	27
Bury	27	7	6	10	29	36	26
Bradford	24	5	6	10	29	36	25
Darlington	24	7	4	13	37	44	25
Wigan	23	5	10	10	28	39	18

WHACKO JACKO'S UNITED THRILLER



DUNDEE UTD 2
AIRDRIE 1

DEADLY Darren Jackson floored brave Airdrie — just when it looked as if they had done enough to share the spoils.

United left it late, with all the goals and excitement coming in the last nine minutes.

With the visitors resolute in the defence, the match looked to be heading for stalemate.

But home substitute Victor Ferreyra brought a smile to boss Jim McLean's face with his 81st minute opener.

Ferreyra, brought on for Ray McKinnon 15 minutes earlier, got on the end of a Mixu Paatelainen-Duncan Ferguson combination to bring home an angled drive.

Volley

But the home joy was stifled three minutes later when Airdrie grabbed a quality equaliser.

A long throw-in was only partially cleared by van der Hoorn and Dave Kirkwood sent a rocket volley into the net from 12 yards.

That left centre stage for Jackson — and he took his latest opportunity with relish to provide United's third win in a row.

Cutting across the box, he unleashed a curling 20-yarder which John Martin could only get his fingertips to before the ball crept over the line off the woodwork.

There was little doubt that Argentinian Ferreyra's introduction was the turning point.

McLean said: "Victor made the difference. I was desperate to get him on the park."

"I took a chance by moving Jackson out of the firing line but he popped up to get the goal that mattered."

Airdrie's Evan Balfour and Kenny Black got yellow cards.

BEST PLAYER: Jackson.

TIP TOPPER!

RANGERS 2 HIBS 0

RANGERS new boy Paul Rideout had his card marked as he rode into town to help shoot the champs back to the top of the table.

Injured ace Mark Hateley, whose place Rideout took in the Rangers attack, gave him a few tips he needed to make his Premier League debut the most memorable day in his career.

"Mark came over to me when I arrived and gave me a rundown on the differences I'd find in Scottish football, and what positions to take up," revealed Rideout. "He was brilliant."

And though Dale Gordon and Ally McCoist grabbed Rangers' goals, the £500,000 shock signing from Notts County nearly had the ball in the net on a couple of occasions.

"My finishing could have been better but Hibs' young keeper Chris Reid made great save from both Ally and me," Rideout admitted ruefully.

Offer

But 27-year-old Rideout admits he's under no illusions that Hateley is still top gun down Ibrox way.

"I'm not kidding myself. With his great goal scoring, Mark will be back in the team when he's fit again."

"But though the competition for places is hard, there's no way I could have turned down an offer like this — even if it meant playing in Rangers' third team — added the former England Under-21 star.

"Over the long term I'm sure I'm going to enjoy my football here though I'll have to learn to live with the pace."

"There wasn't a mo-

Rideout owes it to his dear old pal Hateley!

ment's rest from the start to finish."

Rangers opened the scoring after 17 minutes with Gordon beating the keeper from close range after Richard Gough had swept the ball through to him.

But a succession of missed chances, with McCoist the biggest culprit, kept the game on a cliffhanger before he made amends with two minutes to spare.

Nigel Spackman won the ball as a Hibs defender attempted to steer it to safety and McCoist didn't waste that opportunity with his 23rd goal of the season.

The last-gasp strike finally brought relief to the Rangers supporters.

Just minutes earlier

they had watched in horror when Andy Goram struck out his foot to stop Keith Wright snatching an equaliser, and Dave Robertson had to blast the loose ball away for a corner to prevent the Hibs star pouncing again.

Scotland candidate Wright was unlucky with another attempt that came off the post.

Hibs' hopes of a point were further dented in the second half when they had Dave Farrell sent off after he sent Gordon tumbling shortly after being booked for an earlier foul on the Rangers winger.

But Hibs boss Alex Miller said: "The scoreline would have gone our way if we hadn't missed chances

at vital stages of the game."

"Losing the player made it an uphill battle and by the end Rangers deserved their win."

Rangers chief Walter Smith was also left moaning about the chances they squandered.

"That made it much more difficult for us, though it would have been an injustice if we hadn't got the result after creating so many chances."

"But we also have Andy Goram to thank for keeping us in the game."

Smith revealed that Rangers standby defender Scott Nisbet goes into hospital this week for an exploratory cartilage op.

BEST PLAYER: Gordon.

Sunshine break for shattered Buddies!

ST MIRREN 1
ST J'STONE 5

SHAMED St Mirren's sinners got their come-uppance after being trounced by Saints — a week's holiday in Spain!

Sorry Saints players had to walk a gauntlet of hate outside Love Street, but a few hours later they flew out on a winter break to the Costa del Sol.

And asked exactly where they were headed, boss Davie Hay joked: "We're going to the same place Robert Maxwell disappeared!"

Hay added: "At every club I've been at we've taken the players away while the weather here is bad."

Angry fans had to be moved on by police an hour after the match for hurling abuse at players and directors.

But a hardcore of around 20 stayed on to taunt players, with only popular goalscorer Julian Brodie escaping their wrath.

St Johnstone's Paul Wright had earlier destroyed St Mirren.

Wright levelled Brodie's opener. Then he laid on two crosses for Harry Curran to give them a 3-1 lead and a Vinnie Arkins diving header had the Buddies reeling.

Completing the Paisley side's misery, David Elliot put the ball past his own keeper.

BEST PLAYER: Wright.

HEARTS RIPPED APART

HEARTS 0 ABERDEEN 4

JOE JORDAN took the blow firmly on the chin as Hearts fell off the top of the table with a bump.

Refusing to blame a stomach bug that is raging at Tynecastle for the defeat, the Hearts boss said: "We had three players suffering from a stomach bug playing, but I won't accept this affected the scoreline."

"Aberdeen deserved their win and were clinical in their finishing."

Dons boss Alex Smith was all smiles as he watched his injury-plagued team tear the league leaders apart.

And he beamed: "I'm delighted we played to our capabilities, we were outstanding."

The young strike force of Eoin Jess and Scott Booth gave Scotland centre backs Craig Levein and Dave McPherson an extremely uncomfortable afternoon and Jess capped his display with a fine double.

Save

It was a measure of the Dons' superiority

that Henry Smith was Hearts' top man with a string of fine saves to keep the score down.

And yet Hearts did have a period of pressure in the first half when Theo Snelders denied John Robertson with a wonderful reflex save on the stroke of half time.

However, Aberdeen capitalised on that let-off to hand Hearts a second-half lesson in hitting on the break.

Hearts midfielder Gary Mackay even praised Aberdeen's performance.

"They are a very difficult team to play against if you lose the first goal the way they hit you on the break."

Aberdeen started strongly and Hans Gillhaus was only inches wide from 20 yards after a Levein error had given him possession.

It was one-way traffic and Smith was at his best to push a David Winnie header over the bar.

After 40 minutes Aberdeen took the lead.

Alan McLaren failed to cut out a clearance from Gary Smith and Jess ran onto it, tipped it over McPherson's outstretched leg

* HOW THE TOP GUNS STAND *

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RANGERS	29	21	4	4	68	21	46
HEARTS	29	20	6	3	44	23	46

and hit a beauty past the helpless Smith from 20 yards.

Aberdeen went two up in 51 minutes. Gillhaus picked up a clearance and raced into the Hearts box before squaring to Scott Booth whose shot spun off Levein over Smith and into the empty net.

Smith made a tremendous one-handed save from a Jess right-foot shot and Aberdeen could have had a penalty when McLaren whipped the legs from Booth.

Hearts tried hard to grab a lifeline and Snelders did well to parry a Mackay shot. The rout continued

with a tremendous solo effort from Paul Mason who picked the ball up just inside the Hearts half and travelled to the edge of the box to send a left-foot shot beyond Smith.

And goal hero Jess grabbed his second when he ran on to a Mason cross to score from eight yards.

Aberdeen lost captain Alex McLeish with a foot injury but manager Smith confirmed it was nothing serious.

BEST PLAYER: Jess.

CELTS UNDER A BIG WELL SPELL

MOTHERWELL 0 CELTIC 0

CELTIC suffered more Motherwell misery with another dropped point at Fir Park.

The Parkhead side have won only two of their last 15 matches against the Steelmen. But the Lanarkshire side needed all their fighting spirit to keep out a Celtic side which had them under cosh for the last half-hour of an exciting encounter.

Motherwell never recovered from an amazing 54th minute miss by midfielder Jamie Dolan.

Dariusz Wdowczyk made a hash of a cross from new £150,000 full-back Rob McKinnon which left Dolan with only Gordon Marshall to beat.

The 'Well man cleverly lifted the ball over the keeper — but saw his chip sail across the empty goal and rebound off the post to safety.

For Celtic it was another example of the inconsistency which has seen them win only one of their last five games.

And although they had a stranglehold in the closing stages, that wasn't enough to satisfy boss Liam Brady.

He said: "I wasn't happy with our performance. We didn't play anything like as well as we did at Perth in midweek."

"We were very slack in the first half and the opening 15 minutes of the second half were a continuation of that."

"And although we had Motherwell penned in for the last 25 minutes we missed some good chances."

"Joe Miller went round the goalkeeper and didn't finish and Gerry Creaney also missed a couple."

"We created more chances — but Motherwell made a few and there could've been a lot of goals in the game."

BATTLE FOR THE TITLE: We give you big names and big games

'Rubbish' chants as Newell KO City

BLACKBURN 4
BRISTOL CITY 0

STRIKER Mike Newell reduced angry City fans to chanting 'What a load of rubbish' at their team.

■ And that was at half-time when canny Kenny Dalglish's Second Division leaders were three up.

But those fans were far too harsh because few teams could have matched Rovers on the day.

■ Newell, the striker Dalglish snapped up from Everton for £1.1 million, scored twice, made one and laid on another three chances that forced Andy Leaning into tremendous saves from David Speedie and Mark Atkins.

City's hesitant defenders buckled as early as the second minute when Rovers scored an astonishing goal.

■ Busy Scot Sellars broke up a City attack inside his own penalty area and raced 80 yards unchallenged to the edge of City's area.

Mark Aizlewood missed his tackle and Sellars played the ball into the path of Newell, who slotted home.

■ It was the signal for Rovers to explode and Newell tore City apart.

He laid on chances for Speedie, Atkins and Wilcox before Martin Scott turned a Newell pass bound for Speedie into his own net.

And to fuel the City fans' discontent Newell fired a magnificent third from 25 yards just before half time.

■ All City had to offer in a one-sided first half was a tremendous 30-yard shot from Dave Rennie which smacked against the bar.

Blackburn continued to look the outstanding bet for promotion and a place in next season's Premier League.

And Speedie's header in the 75th minute committed City to their worst defeat of the season.

BEST PLAYER: Newell.

CARDIFF 1 HEREFORD 0

STRIKER Carl Dale's dramatic injury-time winner put Cardiff's promotion drive firmly back on the rails.

A battling performance by Hereford had threatened to give them their first away point since October 5.

But Dale popped up late on to give coach Eddie May his first victory in four League matches.

The goal came when Roger Gibbins' corner was flicked on by defender John Williams for Dale to toe-poke home from two yards.

JET SKIS THE

MAN UTD 1 EVERTON 0

ANDREI KANCHELSKIS and keeper Peter Schmeichel left Alex Ferguson breathing a heavy sigh of relief.

Kanchelskis snatched the 56th minute winner that put United back on top of the table with the kind of strike that's becoming his trademark.

And, 13 minutes later, great Dane Schmeichel left Tony Cottee shaking his head in rueful amazement when an equaliser looked certain.

United's crucial goal came at a time when it seemed that Old Trafford chief Ferguson would have to make another grovelling apology to the fans as he did after the OPR shambles.

If Everton had finished as well as Rangers, slipshod United would have been out of the game by half-time.

And, right after the break their finishing let them down again when Robert Warzycha, put clear by Peter Beardsley, could only chip over the bar.

Speedy Kanchelskis did not take long to make them pay with a replica of the goal he struck in the Rumbelows Cup victory against Leeds.

Surge

He took Steve Bruce's through ball in his stride, surged into the penalty area and held off Alan Harper before flicking the ball past Neville Southall.

Everton could not believe it.

They had looked well on course to keeping up their incredible record against United, who had won only three of the previous 24 meetings.

And, two minutes

from time, Mo Johnston was denied what looked a clear penalty by referee Terry Holbrook when the Scot has flattened by Bruce.

But in Everton's fury, neither Holbrook nor his linesman would give the award.

United began sluggishly as they had in the game with OPR.

The only difference was Everton did not finish as well as the London club.

Everton were so fired up it took United nearly 15 minutes before they could escape from their own half to any effect.

In that time, Everton had chances to give the title favourites a mountain to climb.

Chance

United stayed alive mainly thanks to the reflexes of Schmeichel and Johnston stubbing his toe at the crucial moment.

Harper and Mojo made a striking chance for Beardsley and his eight yard shot was



UNITED ACE MARK HUGHES

Argyle in a dither after dream start

PLYMOUTH 2 LEICESTER 2

TONY Witter, just 65 seconds into his Football League debut and two days after joining Argyle on loan from QPR, had a dream start.

Leicester made a hash of clearing a Martin Barlow free-kick,

the ball came out to Witter and he looped it back over the stranded defence like a veteran.

Then, in the 20th minute Leicester again made a mess of a clearance and Mark Fiore, following up, picked up a weak header from Richard Smith and slotted the ball home.

But Fiore wasted another gift just before half-time and it was Argyle's turn to open the gift shop.

Steve Thompson lofted in a corner kick and Turner headed the ball into his own net.

And it came as no surprise when they equalised in the 65th minute.

BEST PLAYER: Oldfield.

HAMMERS BOTHER

Thousands of West Ham fans, demanding changes at the English First Division soccer club, staged an angry pitch invasion after a league match on Saturday.

About 3,000 fans, some chanting "let's all storm the boardroom", gathered beneath the directors' box after a 1-1 draw against Wimbledon and called for mass dismissals.

Police said there were no arrests and the last demonstrator left the ground nearly two hours after the match ended.

It was the second successive pitch invasion at the east London club — several hundred fans staged a two-hour sit-down protest last Saturday after West Ham were held to a humiliating 1-1 draw in the FA Cup by minor league Farnborough.

Super Stewart's on target again

BRISTOL RVRS 1
TRANMERE 0

TEENAGE Bristol Rovers striker Marcus Stewart simply can't stop scoring against Tranmere.

He netted twice in their 2-2 draw at Prenton Park in August and added another at Twerton Park last Saturday.

His looping 57th minute header from a deep right-wing cross from Marcus Brown was enough to earn Rovers three valuable points in their bid to steer clear of relegation trouble.

Until then it seemed neither side wanted to win.

Bouts of attractive approach play were thwarted by over-elaboration and stern

defending.

None did better than Rovers' new central defender Kevin Moore, borrowed for a month from Southampton.

But had Tranmere's 28-goal John Aldridge not been suspended, it might have been a different story.

Skill

Apart from Jim Steel's early header which whistled over, goalkeeper Brian Parkin had little to worry him until near the end.

His one moment came in the 78th minute when he made a superb acrobatic save to hold a Chris Malkin

header after John Morrissey had centred from the right.

Livewire Stewart showed plenty of skill for an 18-year-old just restored to the side by Dennis Rofe, celebrating his first match as a fully fledged manager.

Bristol Rovers won the midfield battles with Justin Skinner, Andy Reece and the busy Steve Cross assuming almost total control.

Tranmere's Eric Nixon was the busier goalkeeper but he, too, was mainly restricted to catching high balls.

BEST PLAYER: Stewart.

UNITED ACE

Andy Andrei puts 'em back on top of the table after a very close encounter with a stodgy Everton



sharp enough to make the big Dane happy just to concede the corner.

But he was left standing almost immediately after as Peter Beagrie found Johnston eight yards out.

The United defence allowed the Scot to turn unbelievably and were mightily relieved to see his stubbed shot roll gently past the far post.

United looked a different team from the one that had humbled Leeds but they were up against a different style.

Gary Pallister, marooned upfield after a corner, wasted a marvellous chance, heading over from Neil Webb's perfect cross.

Mistake

And while there's Giggs there's always hope for United.

When Ryan was given a decent ball, he gave Matt Jackson some torrid moments.

But those were few and far between and it was significant that Everton's worst moment of the half came through their own mistake.

Dave Watson's mis-directed header looked like letting in Brian McClair clean through the middle, but Martin Keown, again tremendous at the heart of the defence, refused even to allow the Scot a shot.

And it was Everton who twice came closest again to breaking the deadlock.



LIVERPOOL'S BRUCE GROBBELAAR

GLENN GLOOM



SWINDON 0
CAMBRIDGE 2

SWINDON's promotion hopes took a tumble as the home fans watched in stunned

Dion a drag for Hoddle

disbelief.

Two second-half goals did the damage as Glenn Hoddle's men cracked and then crumbled under Cambridge's up-and-at-them approach.

It was United's seven-week search for a league win which had them charging at Swindon right from the start.

Swindon's only first-half chance came when Mickey Hazard, David Kerslake and Dave Mitchell combined cleverly to set up Martin Ling, who pulled his shot wide.

Cambridge looked far more dangerous in front of goal and keeper Nick Hammond rescued Swindon just before half-time with a

breaktaking back-flip to stop a header from Dion Dublin.

Tackless and temper tantrums out of control at times.

Winger Tony Dennis, who amazingly had been sent out at half-time to practice crosses, started Swindon's downfall.

Jeered

He was jeered by the Town fans during the half-time break but he had the last laugh as he set up substitute Neil Heaney for the first goal.

A free-kick was floated perfectly from the left and Heaney ran in to head home.

There was worse to come for Swindon as Dennis set up the second with a right-wing cross which Dublin thumped in from close range.

BEST PLAYER: Dublin.

Sealey's a saviour

ARSENAL 0 ASTON VILLA 0

LES SEALEY produced a stunning save to push Arsenal's champions deeper into crisis.

Arsenal gave little reminder of their once proud status but one shot a minute before the break could have fuelled a revival for George Graham's strugglers.

Kevin Campbell, unmarked around the penalty spot, unleashed a ferocious drive that looked a certain goal.

But Sealey dived

to his right to pull off a magnificent save.

And if his own forwards had been able to muster anything of similar menace at the other end, Villa would have reaped handsome rewards.

Tony Daley should have given them those rewards.

But David Seaman slithered to his feet to stop one chance and Daley squandered another by not passing to an unmarked Dwight Yorke.

BEST PLAYER: McGrath.

Dean strikes at the death to keep title hopes alive

DEAN Saunders grabbed a dramatic injury-time winner to keep Liverpool's growing championship challenge alive.

Their late show — Steve McManaman equalised just four minutes from time — broke the hearts of Luton and denied them their first away win for 10 months.

It also spared the embarrassment of Liverpool defender Ricky Tanner, whose bizarre own goal gave

LIVERPOOL 2 LUTON 1

Luton a 32nd-minute lead.

The late charge began when Roy Houghton's cross from the left was headed down by skipper Mark Wright for McManaman to turn the ball over the line.

Then Saunders notched his 17th goal of the season, neatly tucking home the winner from close range after comeback man John Barnes had supplied the cross.

Liverpool are now unbeaten in their last 11 League games, and doggedly chasing leaders Manchester United.

Boss Graeme Souness underlined the part he felt the Liverpool crowd had played by marching on to the pitch at the final whistle and ordering his players to salute the ecstatic Kop.

Vicious

Liverpool left it late — but Luton had somehow survived a fierce bombardment for most of a one-sided second period.

Michael Thomas was twice denied by the magnificent defending of John Dreyer. And Houghton struck

the post with a 20-yard drive in the 68th minute.

Luton had Liverpool clinging to the ropes in a shock opening but couldn't quite find a knockout blow.

The alarm bells started ringing for the Reds after just six minutes.

David Preece's cross from the left caused problems for the Liverpool defence.

And Paul Telfer's vicious strike from the edge of the box took a deflection off Steve Nicol before bouncing on top of the bar and dropping behind.

From the corner, Dreyer produced another good strike and Bruce Grobbelaar did well to hold a stinging drive.

Ill-at-ease Liverpool had another escape after 15 minutes, when Tanner miskicked.

Brian Stein's flick found Kurt Nogan, whose shot was instantly charged down by Wright.

Another raid led to Nogan finding the unmarked Stein with his right-flank cross.

But the experienced striker couldn't get power or direction on his header.

Trying

It was richly deserved when Luton took the lead, even though they were as surprised as Liverpool when Tanner put through his own goal.

A Nogan cross from the left appeared to be heading harmlessly to Grobbelaar.

But Tanner, trying to help the ball back to his keeper, succeeded only in diverting it past him and into the net.

BEST PLAYER: Dreyer.

Moran to the rescue

EXETER CITY 2 BOLTON WANDERERS 2

TOP scorer Steve Moran snatched a point for City eight minutes from time.

City went behind to a Tony Philliskirk strike. But, in the 31st minute, Moran made it 1-1 after some good work from Mark Robson.

Andy Walker, on loan from Celtic, put Bolton back in front after 89 minutes.

But then a great Scott Hiley cross from the right found Moran for his second.

Joyce rescue foiled

DARLINGTON 3 TORQUAY 2

SHAUN JOYCE gave Torquay hope of pinching a point by scoring with his first touch, but desperate Darlington held on for a crucial win.

Sub Joyce fired in just two minutes af-

ter coming on and caused constant problems for the home defence.

The 41 brave Torquay supporters must have wondered why they had been left on the bench so long.

Wayne Dobbins put the visitors ahead after 11 minu-

tes with his first goal for the club.

But Andy Toman inspired Darlington's revival.

He curled in a 20-yard free kick, set up Steve Mardenborough for the second and grabbed the third on the stroke of half-time.

ABSW BEST FOR SOCCER ACTION



GARY LINEKER — in full flight here, but he failed to find the net last weekend against Chelsea.

EVERTON TO KOP

EXCLUSIVE



ABLETT

EVERTON are poised to sign defender Gary Ablett from neighbours Liverpool in a \$1.5 million deal.

Six-footer Ablett played his 100th First Division game for Liverpool earlier this season — and signed a four year contract.

But 28-year-old Ablett is unhappy with his lot at Anfield.

He now knows he

cannot be guaranteed a first team spot and feels the time is right to change clubs without moving from his native city.

Everton boss Howard Kendall wants Ablett to take over his left-back spot and also to provide them with cover in the centre of the defence.

Kendall recently failed to persuade Liverpool's Barry Venison

to join him after the clubs had agreed to a fee.

Liverpool obviously feel that, with Mark Wright and John Barnes fit again, plus the signing of Michael Thomas from Arsenal, they have enough English players for their European bid this season in the UEFA Cup.

And the Ablett fee will keep them in the black after paying out the big fee for Thomas.



Howard Kendall

United's fans are doing the Kan-Kan



THE name of Andrei Kanchelskis would be on every fan's tongue at Old Trafford — if they could pronounce it!

★ The Soviet star struck in the 56th minute to take Manchester United back to the top of the First Division with his sixth goal of the season.

"Skis" is moving uphill fast in the popularity stakes and, United's 1-0 win over Everton stopped manager Alex Ferguson having to come out with his second mouthful of the day.

★ Before the match he apologised for his side's shocking 4-1 home defeat to QPR on New Year's Day.

Meanwhile, Dean Saunders, Britain's priciest player at \$6 million is gaining affection from Anfield's devotees.

★ He scored the 90th minute winner to clinch a 2-1 success after Liverpool had laboured long and hard against Luton.

ABSW BEST - We give you big names and big games